ATLAS
MYSTERY TALES
MYSTERY TALES
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
10¢
SEPT.
NO. 33
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN "THE LOCKED DOOR" WAS OPENED???
ALSO IN THIS MYSTERIOUS ISSUE! "THE UNSEEN!"

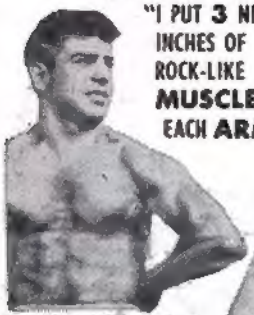
TONY PASCARELLA

BEFORE "Here's me—a bag-of-bones weakling before I mailed the coupon."

AFTER

"I ADDED 3 NEW INCHES TO MY CHEST."

"I PUT 3 NEW INCHES OF ROCK-LIKE MUSCLE ON EACH ARM!



Like Tony YOU can be a GOLD MEDAL WINNER in

ALL SPORTS

It's easy with Jowett Training! Mail Coupon To See How!

WOW! What an AMAZING HE-MAN TONY IS *NOW!*

He gained **28** MUSCLE-PACKED POUNDS all over! Won NEW HANDSOME LOOKS . . . NEW POPULARITY.

World's Greatest Builder of HE-MEN

Shows YOU How in **10** MINUTES OF FUN A DAY!

"You should have seen SKINNY ME only a few WEEKS AGO!"

COME ON PAL! Now YOU make me prove it! Give my easy, quick course just 10 pleasant minutes a day in your own home like Tony did. In a few short weeks your puny, old frame will come alive with smooth, giant HE-MAN MUSCLES and POWER to make you PROUD!

WIN CHEERS Not JEERS

On the beach, in the gym, on the job, in ALL sports your new rippling, strong-as-iron muscles, new jetline body will win envy, admiration, bring you SUCCESS. Tested and proved Jowett training will bring you new men and women friends, new popularity everywhere you go.

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are. I'll make you OVER by the SAME secret method I turned myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong. I can do for you what I do each year for MANY THOUSANDS of weaklings like Tony was.

DEVELOP YOUR 520 MIGHTY MUSCLES

Gain or Lose Pounds, INCHES FAST!

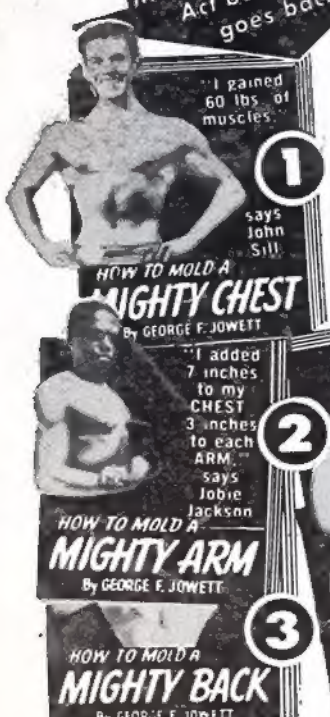
YES! You'll ADD INCHES of shapely MUSCLES to your skinny ARMS and CHEST . . . see your fat melt away to a HARD, SOLID body in fighting trim. Your BACK and SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels you'll gain in LOOKS, SIZE, STAMINA, SEX APPEAL . . . you'll be "top kick" in SPORTS, BUSINESS, in anything you tackle!

GET STARTED *NOW!* MAIL COUPON

Stop WISHING! You can do it. Mail NOW the ALL-FREE coupon below as I did. Get ALL 5 BOOKS FREE (millions sold for $1.00) while limited offer lasts. Learn HOW you can WIN $100 and a big 15" silver cup as a Jowett trained CHAMPION!

YOU CAN WIN A BIG 15" TALL SILVER CHAMPION CUP and $100 IN CASH as I just did!

GET GOING, PAL! Mail coupon to get FREE 5 PICTURE-PACKED HE-MAN BOOKS. Limited offer. Millions sold at $1.00. Act before price goes back.



ALL 5 BIG BOOKS YOURS! COUNT THEM!

SPECIAL! IF YOU ACT AT ONCE, I will ALSO send FREE a BIG thrilling book of PHOTOS of strong men and boys I have changed from unhappy WEAKLINGS into happy, vigorous HE-MEN.

Do as I Did MAIL THIS LAST CHANCE—ALL FREE COUPON TODAY! And get 1. FIVE HE-MAN BOOKS; 2. MUSCLE METER; 3. PHOTO BOOK

Dept. MA-59

JOWETT INSTUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING
220 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

Tell Me How To WIN $100, etc.

"Jowett Courses Construction World for Building All-Around HE-MEN" R. F. Kelley Physical Director

Dear George: Please send me FREE a Muscle Meter and all 5 books in one volume on "How to Become a Mighty HE-MAN." For extra promptness, also send Jowett's PHOTO Book of Strong Men. Enclosed find 10c FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING. (No C.O.D.'s) Please tell me how I can start your training and get the results that Tony did.

NAME_____ AGE____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ ZONE____ STATE_____

MAIL NOW! SAVES YOU YEARS and DOLLARS!

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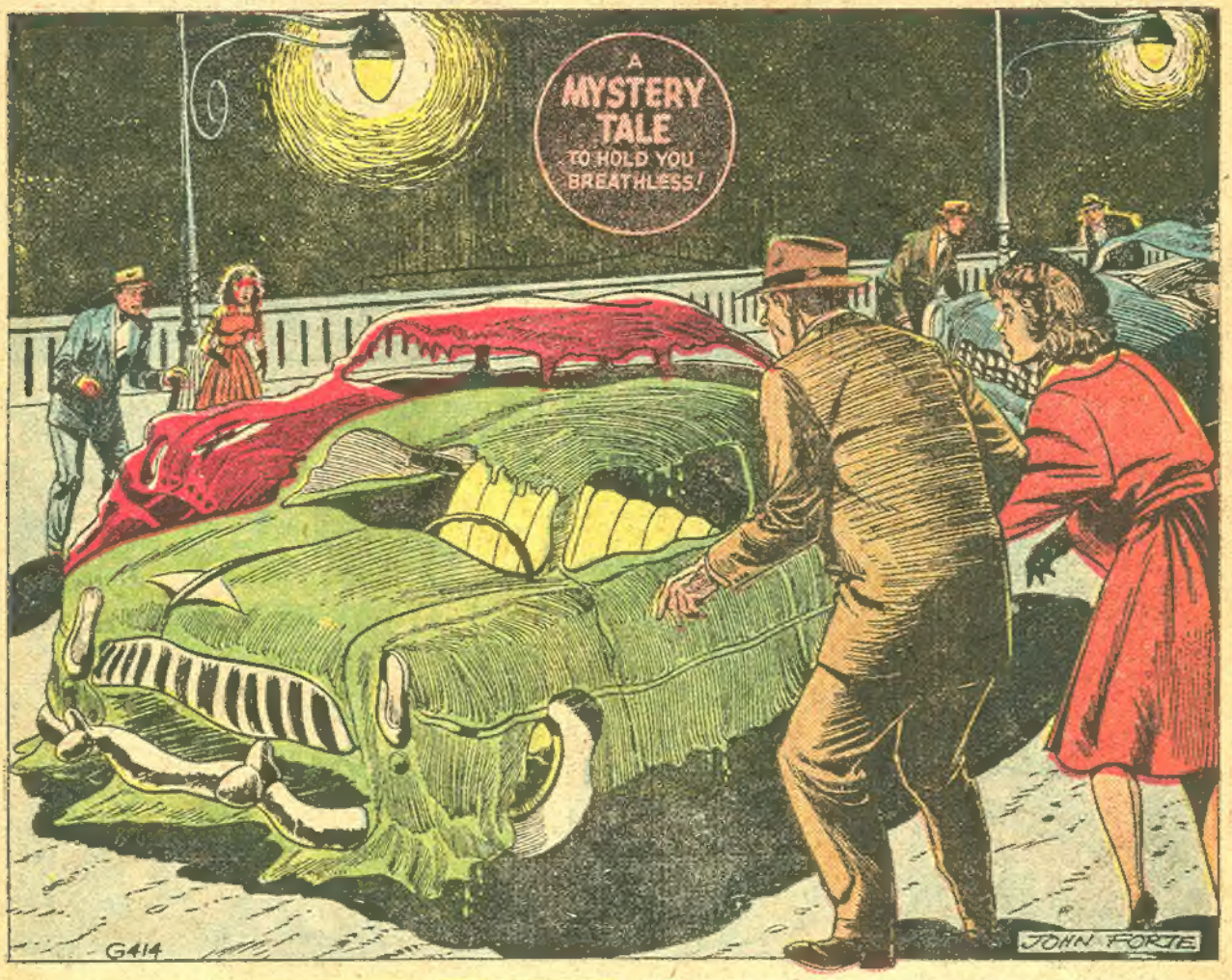
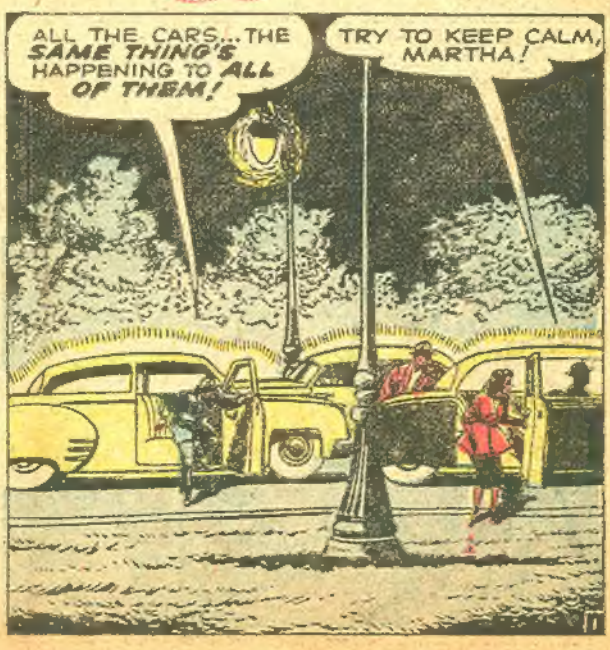
THERE WERE COOL BREEZES ON THE PLATONIC PARKWAY, AND ALL THE FOLKS WERE PLEASURE-SEEKING, WHEN THE STRANGE THING HAPPENED!

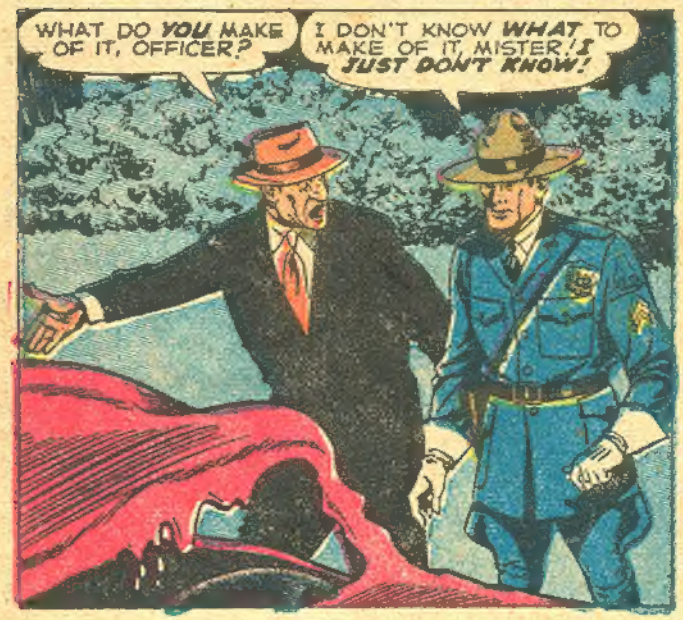
THEY MELT AT NIGHT!

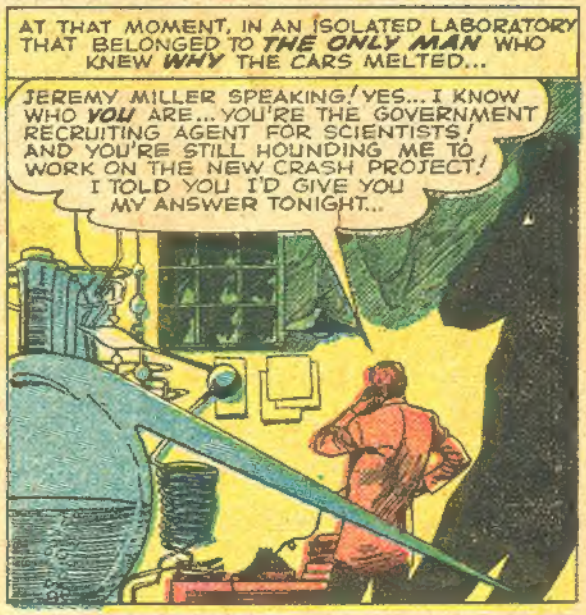




KEEP CALM? HOW CAN I? LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW!

THEY'RE ALL MELTING!
LUCKY EVERYBODY GOT OUT IN TIME!


WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, OFFICER?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT, MISTER! I JUST DON'T KNOW!

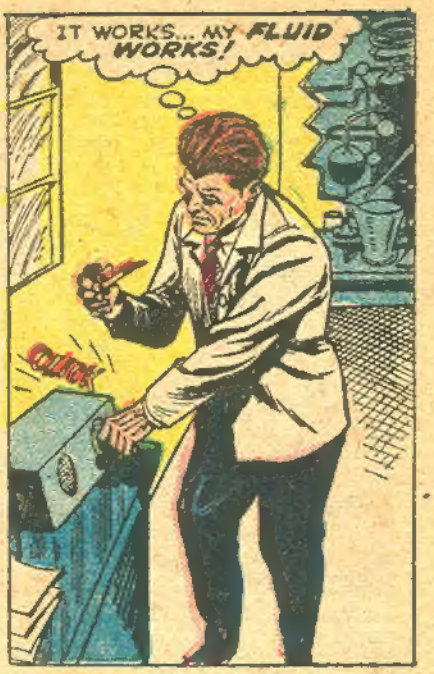

AT THAT MOMENT, IN AN ISOLATED LABORATORY THAT BELONGED TO THE ONLY MAN WHO KNEW WHY THE CARS MELTED...
JEREMY MILLER SPEAKING! YES... I KNOW WHO YOU ARE... YOU'RE THE GOVERNMENT RECRUITING AGENT FOR SCIENTISTS! AND YOU'RE STILL HOUNDING ME TO WORK ON THE NEW CRASH PROJECT! I TOLD YOU I'D GIVE YOU MY ANSWER TONIGHT...

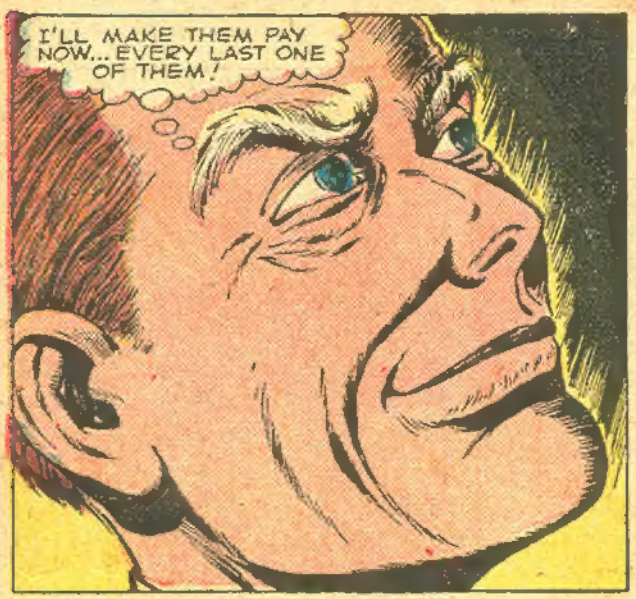
...BUT HAVEN'T YOU HEARD ABOUT ME FROM MY COLLEAGUES? HAVEN'T THEY TOLD YOU THAT I'M A FOOL? ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT, DROP BY HERE AT MIDNIGHT... I'LL GIVE YOU A DEFINITE ANSWER THEN!

BETWEEN NOW AND MIDNIGHT, THERE SHOULD BE SOME INTERESTING NEWS ON THE RADIO... ABOUT MELTING CARS!

SEATING HIMSELF COMFORTABLY NEAR THE RADIO, JEREMY MILLER LIT HIS PIPE, AND SOON...
WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO BRING YOU A SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN! AUTOMOBILES ALL OVER THE CITY... ON THE PARKWAYS AND IN THE STREETS...HAVE MELTED!

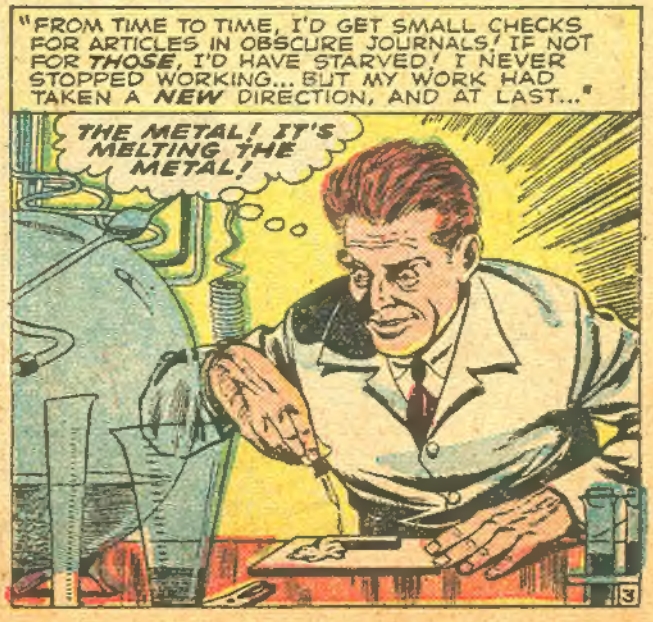
...FORTUNATELY, NO ONE HAS BEEN HURT... THE REASON FOR THE MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENON IS AS YET UNKNOWN...THIS IS A WARNING... EVEN IF YOUR CAR IS STILL IN GOOD CONDITION, DO NOT DRIVE IT UNTIL A GENERAL CLEARANCE ORDER HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE POLICE...


IT WORKS... MY FLUID WORKS!
CLICK

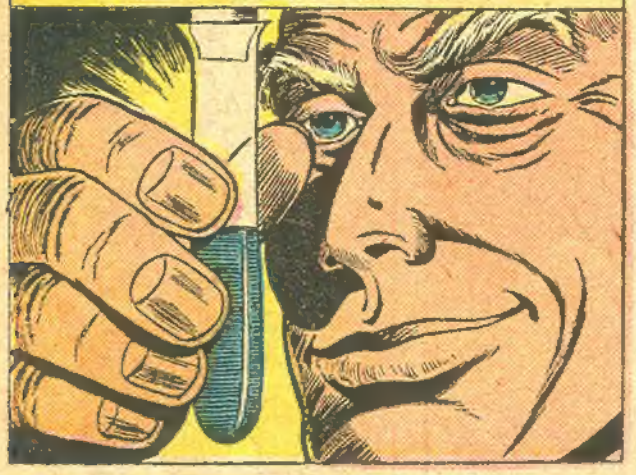

I'LL MAKE THEM PAY NOW... EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!

"EVERY INDUSTRIALIST AND SCIENTIST... FOR LAUGHING AT JEREMY MILLER WHENEVER I CAME TO THEM WITH A NEW INVENTION TO BENEFIT MANKIND!"
BUT THIS WOULD RAISE THE STANDARD OF LIVING ALL OVER THE WORLD!
CAN'T USE IT, MILLER... THAT'S FINAL! AND DON'T COME AROUND WITH ANY MORE OF YOUR STUPID IDEAS... I'M A BUSY MAN!

"AND MY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES... HOW DID THEY TREAT ME?"
RECOMMEND YOU FOR A GRANT? IMPOSSIBLE! EVER STOP TO THINK THAT YOU MIGHT BE IN THE WRONG LINE OF WORK, MILLER?

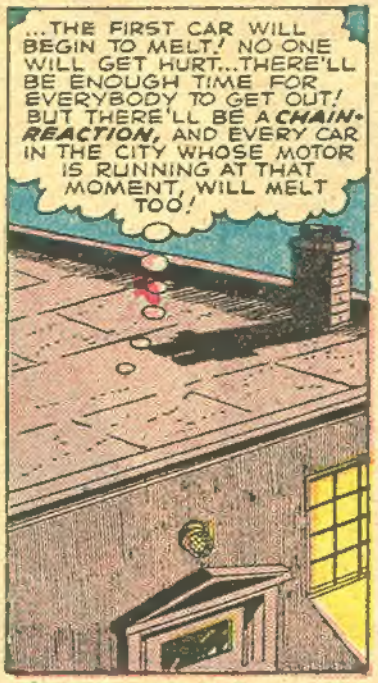

"FROM TIME TO TIME, I'D GET SMALL CHECKS FOR ARTICLES IN OBSCURE JOURNALS! IF NOT FOR THOSE, I'D HAVE STARVED! I NEVER STOPPED WORKING... BUT MY WORK HAD TAKEN A NEW DIRECTION, AND AT LAST..."
THE METAL! IT'S MELTING THE METAL!

"I HAD PERFECTED MY FLUID AT LAST... A HIGH-SPEED CORROSIVE SO POWERFUL, THAT ONCE IT STARTS WORKING, METAL MELTS RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES! AND I'D ALSO PERFECTED ***THE ONLY COUNTER-AGENT*** THAT COULD NEUTRALIZE THE CORROSIVE!"

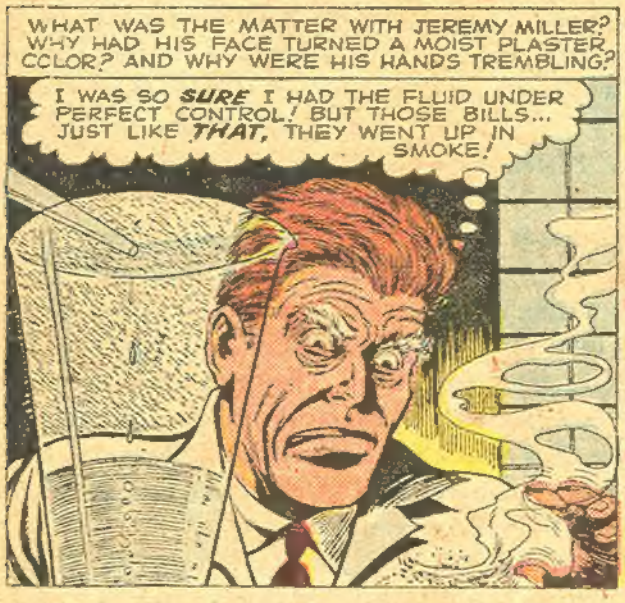


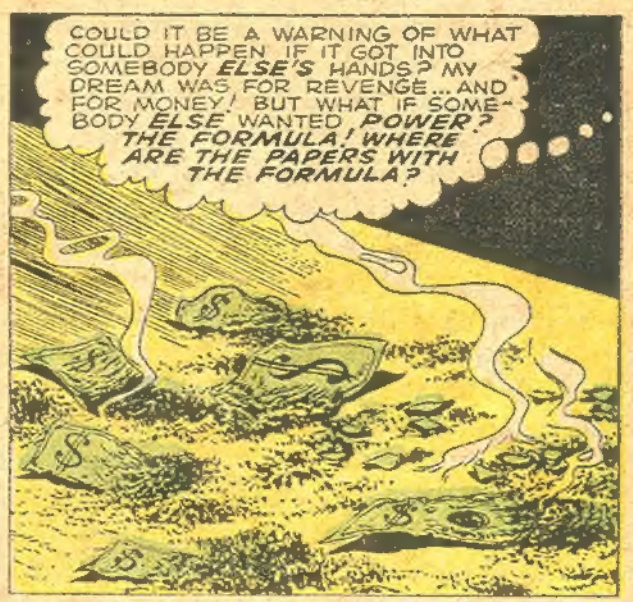
"THE NEXT NIGHT, AT THE MAIN PIPE THAT FEEDS GASOLINE TO THE CITY'S REFINERY..."

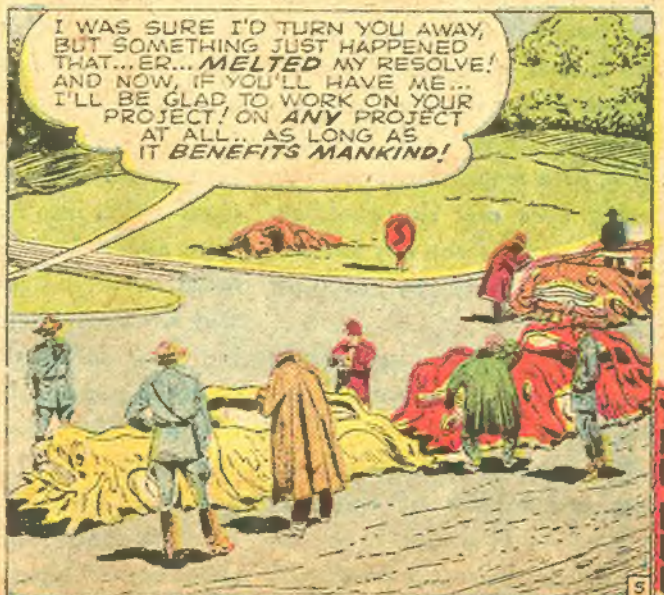
"AND THEN I CAME BACK HERE..."



"AND WHEN PEOPLE HEAR THAT JEREMY MILLER CAN SELL THEM THE ONLY ***COUNTER-AGENT*** THAT WILL NEUTRALIZE THE CORROSION, THEY'LL PAY PLENTY... ***ALL*** OF THEM!







ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN UNUSUAL STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

NIGHT VISITOR

THE heat of the tropic night weighed heavily upon Tony along with the strange fever that had kept him to his bed. He had played his cards very carefully until now, and he would not let the discomfort of illness keep him from his fortune, he vowed. His project had taken more than a year of patient scheming. Tonight, a small plane would take off into the early darkness and make its surprise landing in time for him to meet Faleesh. The contract would be signed, and the management of the fabulous diamond mines in Faleesh's kingdom would fall to him along with the great personal fortunes he would reap there.

He struggled to his feet and rang for the boy servant. The room was dense with heat and an intense silence. He put his hand over his eyes, and when he drew it back he brushed against a hand. Tony jumped back instinctively with the sudden spring of a trapped animal. His blazing eyes met the cool, respectful gaze of the boy servant standing humbly by to wait upon him.

Tony drew himself up straight to cover his embarrassment. Composure was a necessary formality in order to keep the respect and loyalty of those in his employ. It would never do to show the boy that he served a coward. Why had he reacted in such great alarm to something as trivial as an accidental brushing of arms with one who had just been summoned? All the same, Tony could never get used to the cat-like movements of this young fellow. The boy walked without so much as disturbing the air around him.

"My pills and water, please," said Tony.

"Yes, Sahib. I will fetch them at once."

"And make sure that it is the boiled water."

"But of course, Sahib. I will make absolutely certain."

One could not take too many precautions at a time like this, Tony knew. Water that wasn't boiled might carry the dysentery germs that could easily affect those who had not been brought up to drink it. Tony was a cautious traveler. Although he had absolute confidence in the boy's loyalty, he could not vouch for the others. One of Kramer's men could always send a mischief-maker into his employ. He must always be wary of the personal rivalry between himself and Kramer. There was no telling how far that man would stoop to prevent him from getting to Faleesh first.

When he had tried to negotiate with Faleesh from the States, he had made the mistake of thinking of Kramer only as a friend, and not as a business man. Kramer had no financial resources of his own, and Tony had never thought of him as a possible competitor. Tony was only too eager to talk about his plans. When he told Kramer the details, it was with the great eagerness he felt for the adventure. In a way he was patting himself on the back for continuing the contact he had accidentally made with Faleesh on shipboard one year.

Tony's correspondence with Faleesh was quite promising. Faleesh had almost come to the point of asking Tony to come there. Then, suddenly, the entire business deal seemed to founder. Faleesh suddenly became reluctant to talk terms, and his letters cooled.

Suddenly it came to Tony's attention that Kramer had made some heavy loans. He told Tony he was going on a vacation. Tony made his own private investigation and found that Kramer was setting out for Faleesh's territory to grab right from under Tony's nose the running of the diamond mine.

Tony was determined to overtake him and get to Faleesh first. A fantastic chase into the Orient began, a race between himself and Kramer to confront Faleesh and win his friendship and the prized contract for the diamond mining.

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

New styles in Christmas cards

YOUR FRIENDS WILL BUY ON SIGHT

You can make over $1.00 on a box

AND WE'LL SEND YOU 26 OF THE TOP FAVORITES TO SHOW, ABSOLUTELY **FREE**

All Different—No Two Cards Alike!

Everybody—friends and neighbors—even strangers—"fall in love" with these new, EXCLUSIVE Christmas Card designs. And no wonder! They're different! They're brand new! They include the finest Religious, Humorous, Artistic, and Business Christmas Cards—Printed, Embossed, and Die-Cut, as well as the sensational, new, EXCLUSIVE "Super-Slims." And even **with sender's name printed on every one,** these new kinds of cards sell for just about 3c each!

Earn Good Money in Your Spare Time

Just compare these cards with the same quality of cards selling in stores for 15c or more each. No wonder you can make good money in spare time just by showing them! Only 50 orders can bring you more than $60 in cash profits by our amazing Double-Up Profit Plan.

MAKE MORE THAN $60.00 ON ONLY 50 ORDERS

Just mail the coupon and you'll receive 26 of these exciting new cards—all different—and all absolutely **free.** Along with these FREE cards, we'll send you everything else you need to make lots of quick cash for yourself, your church or your club. And we'll show you how you can make this extra money every week between now and Christmas! The 26 cards you'll receive are in full color—all the newest and most popular designs we ever created, and they are Exclusive!

SEND NO MONEY—MAIL COUPON and Get Everything Needed to Begin

There is no charge for this Sample Kit. All you do is mail us the coupon with your name and address. When the cards arrive, show them to friends and neighbors. If, in 10 days, you aren't delighted with the money you've made, and the orders you've received—if you still aren't completely convinced that this is a wonderful spare-time money maker for you—just return the Kit and forget the matter. You owe it to yourself, after reading this far—**to try it.** Mail the coupon today.

GENERAL CARD COMPANY
1300 West Jackson Boulevard
Dept. 1409 - - - Chicago 7, Illinois

SEND NO MONEY—MAIL THIS COUPON

GENERAL CARD CO.
1300 W. Jackson Blvd., Dept. 1409
Chicago 7, Illinois

FREE

Please send me the 26 EXCLUSIVE Christmas Cards—FREE, with New Color Catalog of Stationery, Gift Wraps and Gifts, and complete instructions for making lots of money by taking orders in full or spare time. It is understood that I pay nothing for these 26 cards now or ever. If after 10 days, I am not delighted with the orders I've gotten, and the money I am making, I'll send your Valuable Sample Kit back and forget the matter.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ *Zone* ___ *State* _____

YOU STILL SEE RE-ISSUES OF HIS FILMS ON TELEVISION! HE WAS ***FLAME, THE WONDER DOG!*** WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ***FLAME*** THAT DAY ON THE SET? ***WHAT*** WAS MAKING HIM CRINGE AND WHIMPER?

THE UNSEEN!

NOW FLAME WAS ALONE WITH HIS MASTER...THE MAN WHO HAD TRAINED HIM SO PATIENTLY, AND WHOM HE LOVED AND TRUSTED.

BUT LOUDER THAN HIS MASTER'S SOOTHING VOICE, WAS THE SHRILL, PERSISTENT WHINE FROM OUTER SPACE THAT FLAME COULD HEAR, AND HIS MASTER COULDN'T! THE SOUND OF JET EXHAUSTS THAT HERALDED AN UNSEEN MENACE BEARING DOWN ON EARTH... AND MADE THE WONDER DOG WHIMPER...

HOW COULD HIS MASTER KEEP SWING, WHILE THE UNSEEN WERE COMING CLOSER EVERY SECOND? HIS MASTER WAS IN DANGER SO WAS EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD ON EARTH!

I'M GOING INTO THE COMMISSARY FOR LUNCH! TAKE IT EASY, FLAME... TRY TO CALM DOWN! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!

IF HE COULD ONLY WARN HIS MASTER BUT SUDDENLY THERE WAS A CRESCENDO OF SOUND LOUDER THAN A MILLION SIRENS! THE UNSEEN HAD COME TO EARTH! FLAME FELT HIMSELF GO LIMP

FELT HIMSELF FLOATING THROUGH SPACE...UP UP

AND WHEN HIS EYES OPENED.

WH..WHERE AM I? BUT I'M TALKING... I CAN TALK!

OF COURSE YOU CAN TALK! BUT **NOT** THE LANGUAGE OF THE EARTH!

HE WAS IN A SPACE CRAFT! THOSE FIGURES LOOMING OVER HIM WERE DOGS LIKE HIMSELF! EVERYTHING WAS SO STRANGE...YET VAGUELY ***FAMILIAR!***

YOUR MEMORY NEEDS REFRESHING! AFTER ALL, YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FROM HOME OVER FOUR THOUSAND YEARS.

HOME? WHAT HOME!

THE PLANET SCYLLA IN THE SEVENTH GALAXY! THAT'S WHERE YOU WERE BORN...SCYLLA, THE PLANET OF THE ***WARRING DOGS!*** THINK HARD...AND YOU'LL REMEMBER HOW FOUR THOUSAND YEARS AGO WE FIRST CONTEMPLATED DESTROYING THE EARTH...

"***YOU*** WERE CALLED BEFORE THE INVASION COUNCIL AND WHEN WE INFORMED YOU OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT TO RECONNOITER EARTH, YOU PROTESTED..."

IF I MAY, SIR... I'D LIKE TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO CONTINUE WORKING ON MY CURRENT PROJECT! YOU SEE...THE WAY OUR ASSAULT CRAFT CARRY THEIR BOMB LOAD IS

SILENCE! THE COUNCIL HAS DECREED, AND YOU MUST ***OBEY!***

"WE TRANSPORTED YOU TO EARTH WITH YOUR MATE! IT IS OUR CUSTOM ALWAYS TO SEND A **TEAM** OF SPIES."

YOU NEED SEND NO FORMAL REPORTS! OUR **THOUGHT TRANSMISSION MACHINE** WILL RECORD EVERYTHING YOU SEE!

"BUT YOU LET YOURSELF BE BEFRIENDED BY AN EARTH BEING AND YOU FORGOT THAT YOUR JOB WAS TO SPY!"

"MEANWHILE, YOUR MATE HAD ACCIDENTALLY MET DEATH, BUT NOT BEFORE GIVING BIRTH TO A LITTER! AND NOW, AFTER FOUR THOUSAND YEARS, THE WHOLE DOG POPULATION OF EARTH IS COMPRISED OF YOUR DESCENDANTS!"

"AND **YOU** LIVED ON, GROWING FONDER OF EARTH BEINGS, ADORING ONE MASTER AFTER ANOTHER.

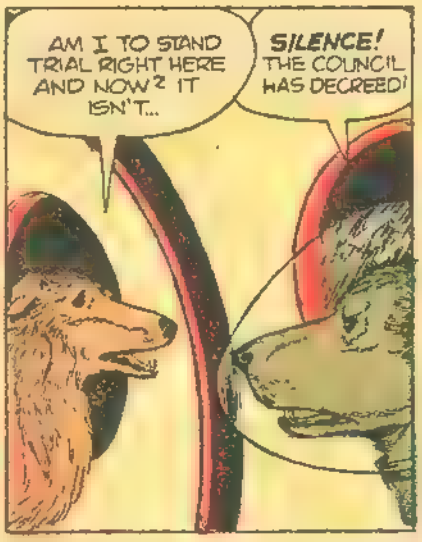
"WE WOULD HAVE DEALT WITH YOU LONG AGO, BUT WE HAD DISCOVERED A NEW GALAXY WITH PLANETS FAR RICHER THAN EARTH FOR US TO PLUNDER!"

"BUT AT LAST THE TIME CAME FOR US TO TURN TO EARTH AGAIN! AND CONSULTING THE **THOUGHT TRANSMISSION MACHINE**, WE LEARNED WHAT HAD HAPPENED..."

OUR SPY HAS FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT US! HE HAS TURNED **TRAITOR!**

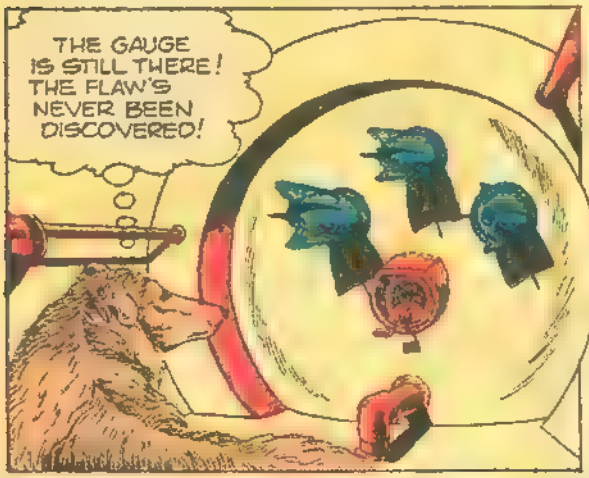
"SO WE SET OUT FOR EARTH OUR SPACE CRAFT SET AT ASSAULT VELOCITY. **YOU** HEARD US COMING AND HEARING US STIRRED VAGUE MEMORIES INSIDE OF YOU! BUT YOU'D TURNED TRAITOR, AND YOUR ONLY IMPULSE WAS TO WARN THE EARTH BEING!"

YES, HE REMEMBERED NOW! HE KNEW THAT EVERY WORD WAS TRUE, AND THAT MANKIND WAS DOOMED!

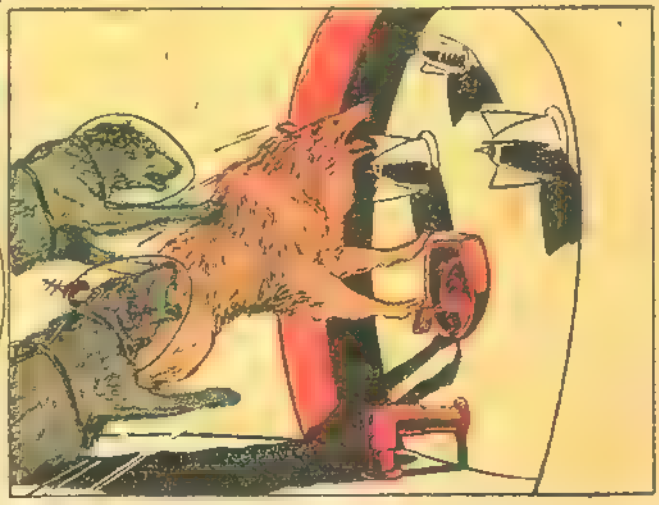


THE MEMORIES KEPT FLOODING IN ON HIS BRAIN! THOSE LAST HARSH WORDS RECALLED THE DAY HE'D FIRST BEEN ASSIGNED TO SPY ON EARTH! HE'D BEEN WORKING ON A PROJECT AT THE TIME! THE PROJECT! WHAT HAD IT BEEN?

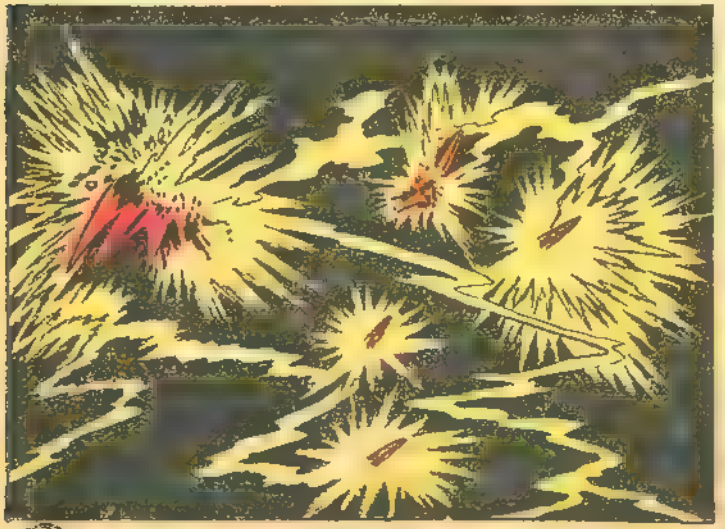
OF COURSE! THE BOMB LOADS ON THE ASSAULT CRAFT! THE ENGINEERS HAD LEFT A GAUGE EXPOSED IN THE BULKHEAD! IF THAT GAUGE SHOULD BE TURNED A CERTAIN WAY, THERE COULD BE AN ACCIDENT!



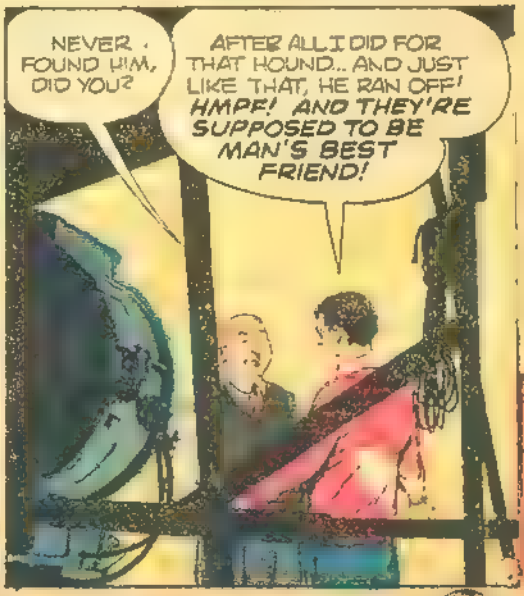
HE FLUNG HIMSELF SIDEWAYS! HIS CAPTORS TRIED TO PULL HIM AWAY! BUT HE TORE HIMSELF LOOSE WITH ONE FINAL DESPERATE LUNGE, AND MANAGED TO REACH THE GAUGE!



THERE WAS A ROARING BLAST THAT OBLITERATED THE ASSAULT CRAFT, AND THEN, BY A CHAIN REACTION, THE WHOLE FLEET WENT UP IN FLAMES! AND FLAME HAD SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE MANKIND!



AND WHAT WAS FLAME'S EPITAPH?

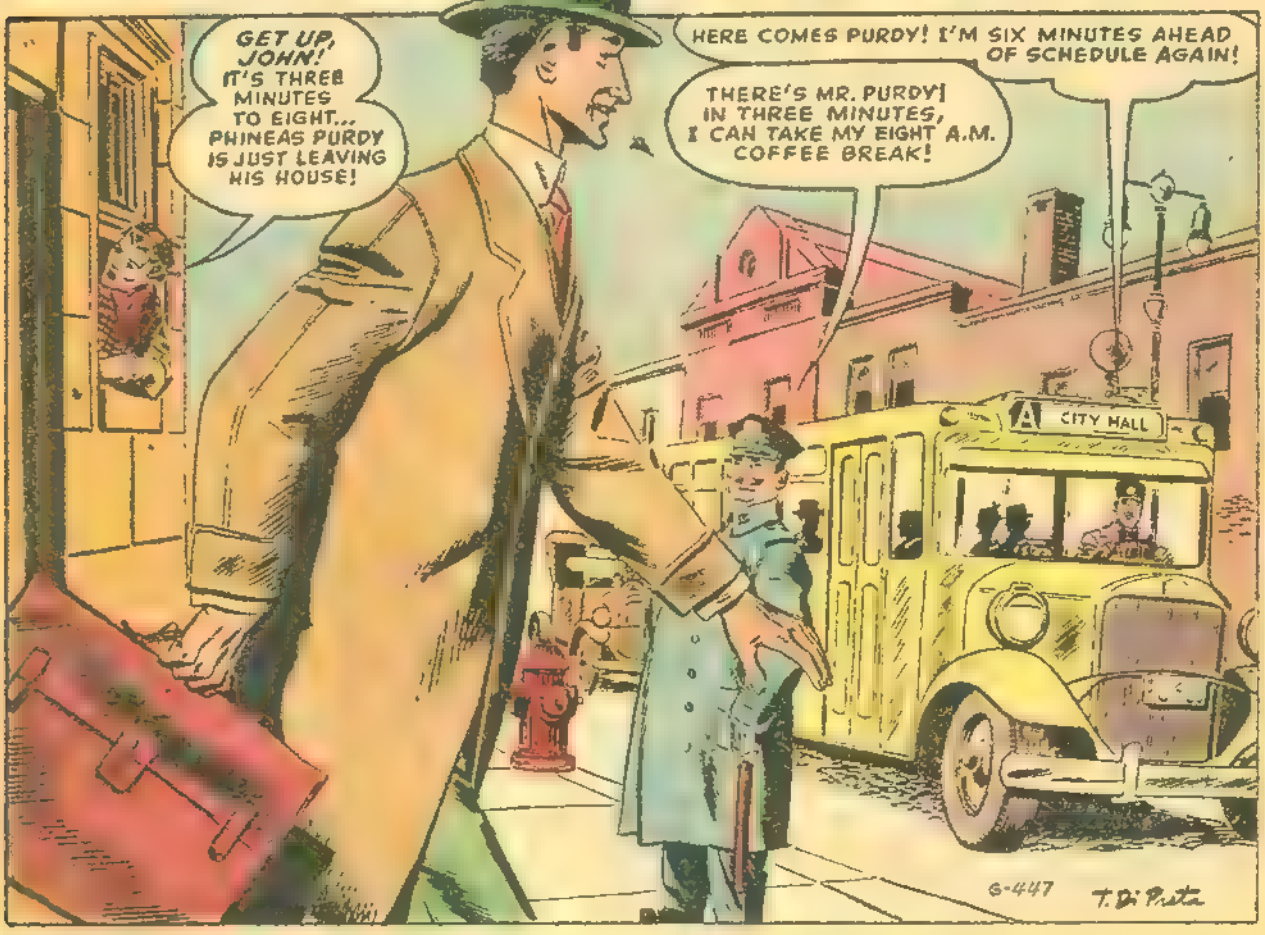


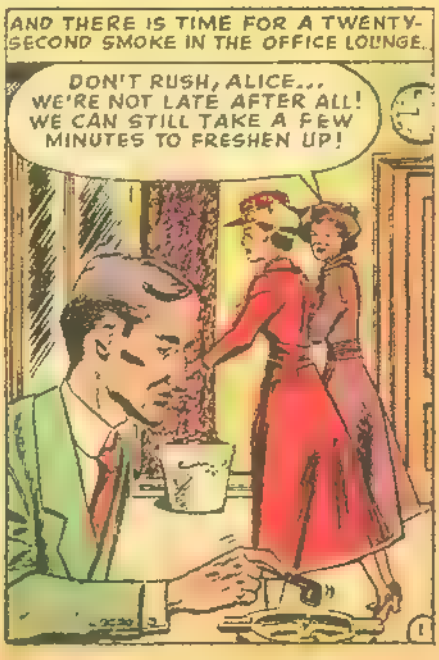
THE END

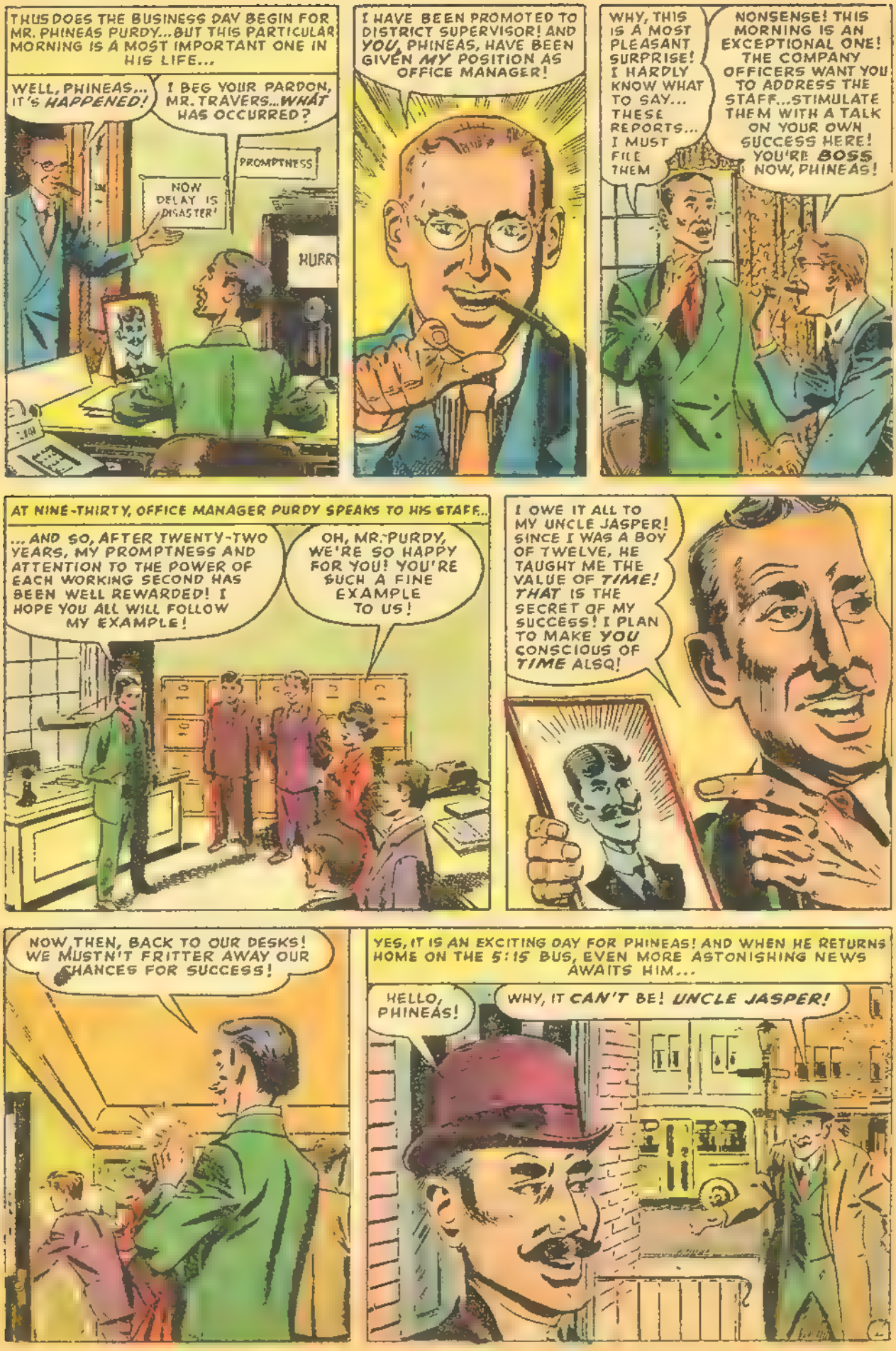
ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN UNUSUAL STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

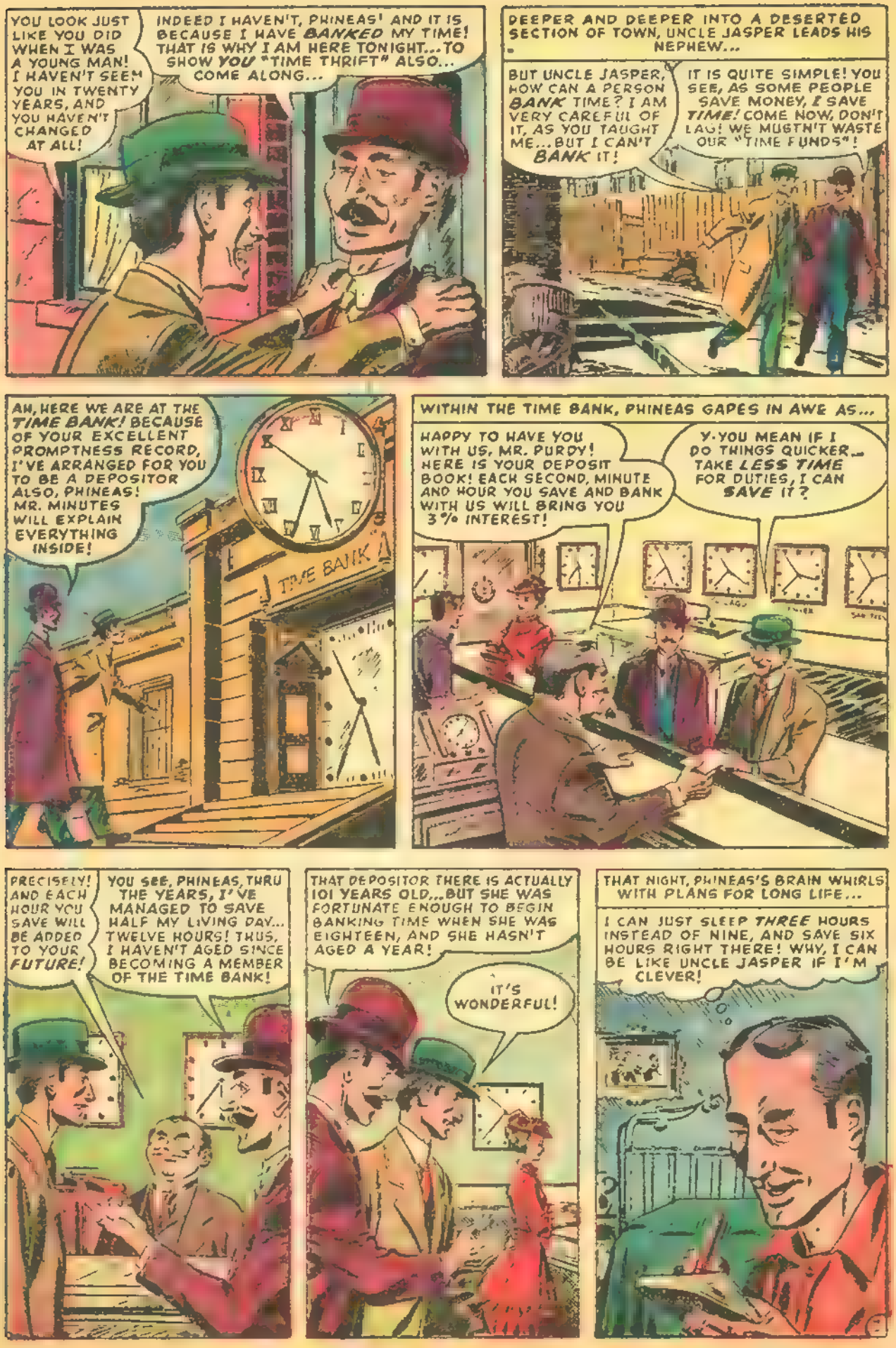
PHINEAS PURDY WAS THE MOST REMARKABLE MAN IN TOWN! FOR HE WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE ONE THING WE ALL TAKE FOR GRANTED... TIME! YES, INDEED, PHINEAS WOULD NOT SQUANDER A SINGLE MOMENT! AND IT WAS FOR THIS VERY REASON THAT PHINEAS SOON CAME TO REGRET HIS WAYS!

THE TIME-SAVER!






THUS DOES THE BUSINESS DAY BEGIN FOR MR. PHINEAS PURDY...BUT THIS PARTICULAR MORNING IS A MOST IMPORTANT ONE IN HIS LIFE...
WELL, PHINEAS... IT'S HAPPENED!
I BEG YOUR PARDON, MR. TRAVERS...WHAT HAS OCCURRED?
PROMPTNESS
NOW DELAY IS DISASTER!
HURRY
I HAVE BEEN PROMOTED TO DISTRICT SUPERVISOR! AND YOU, PHINEAS, HAVE BEEN GIVEN MY POSITION AS OFFICE MANAGER!
WHY, THIS IS A MOST PLEASANT SURPRISE! I HARDLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY... THESE REPORTS... I MUST FILE THEM
NONSENSE! THIS MORNING IS AN EXCEPTIONAL ONE! THE COMPANY OFFICERS WANT YOU TO ADDRESS THE STAFF...STIMULATE THEM WITH A TALK ON YOUR OWN SUCCESS HERE! YOU'RE BOSS NOW, PHINEAS!
AT NINE-THIRTY, OFFICE MANAGER PURDY SPEAKS TO HIS STAFF...
... AND SO, AFTER TWENTY-TWO YEARS, MY PROMPTNESS AND ATTENTION TO THE POWER OF EACH WORKING SECOND HAS BEEN WELL REWARDED! I HOPE YOU ALL WILL FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE!
OH, MR. PURDY, WE'RE SO HAPPY FOR YOU! YOU'RE SUCH A FINE EXAMPLE TO US!
I OWE IT ALL TO MY UNCLE JASPER! SINCE I WAS A BOY OF TWELVE, HE TAUGHT ME THE VALUE OF TIME! THAT IS THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS! I PLAN TO MAKE YOU CONSCIOUS OF TIME ALSO!
NOW THEN, BACK TO OUR DESKS! WE MUSTN'T FRITTER AWAY OUR CHANCES FOR SUCCESS!
YES, IT IS AN EXCITING DAY FOR PHINEAS! AND WHEN HE RETURNS HOME ON THE 5:15 BUS, EVEN MORE ASTONISHING NEWS AWAITS HIM...
HELLO, PHINEAS!
WHY, IT CAN'T BE! UNCLE JASPER!


YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOU DID WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN TWENTY YEARS, AND YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL!
INDEED I HAVEN'T, PHINEAS! AND IT IS BECAUSE I HAVE BANKED MY TIME! THAT IS WHY I AM HERE TONIGHT...TO SHOW YOU "TIME THRIFT" ALSO... COME ALONG...
DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO A DESERTED SECTION OF TOWN, UNCLE JASPER LEADS HIS NEPHEW...
BUT UNCLE JASPER, HOW CAN A PERSON BANK TIME? I AM VERY CAREFUL OF IT, AS YOU TAUGHT ME...BUT I CAN'T BANK IT!
IT IS QUITE SIMPLE! YOU SEE, AS SOME PEOPLE SAVE MONEY, I SAVE TIME! COME NOW, DON'T LAG! WE MUSTN'T WASTE OUR "TIME FUNDS"!
AH, HERE WE ARE AT THE TIME BANK! BECAUSE OF YOUR EXCELLENT PROMPTNESS RECORD, I'VE ARRANGED FOR YOU TO BE A DEPOSITOR ALSO, PHINEAS! MR. MINUTES WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING INSIDE!
TIME BANK
WITHIN THE TIME BANK, PHINEAS GAPES IN AWE AS...
HAPPY TO HAVE YOU WITH US, MR. PURDY! HERE IS YOUR DEPOSIT BOOK! EACH SECOND, MINUTE AND HOUR YOU SAVE AND BANK WITH US WILL BRING YOU 3% INTEREST!
Y-YOU MEAN IF I DO THINGS QUICKER... TAKE LESS TIME FOR DUTIES, I CAN SAVE IT?
PRECISELY! AND EACH HOUR YOU SAVE WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR FUTURE!
YOU SEE, PHINEAS, THRU THE YEARS, I'VE MANAGED TO SAVE HALF MY LIVING DAY... TWELVE HOURS! THUS, I HAVEN'T AGED SINCE BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE TIME BANK!
THAT DEPOSITOR THERE IS ACTUALLY 101 YEARS OLD...BUT SHE WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BEGIN BANKING TIME WHEN SHE WAS EIGHTEEN, AND SHE HASN'T AGED A YEAR!
IT'S WONDERFUL!
THAT NIGHT, PHINEAS'S BRAIN WHIRLS WITH PLANS FOR LONG LIFE...
I CAN JUST SLEEP THREE HOURS INSTEAD OF NINE, AND SAVE SIX HOURS RIGHT THERE! WHY, I CAN BE LIKE UNCLE JASPER IF I'M CLEVER!

WITH A FIERCE INTENSITY, PHINEAS PURDY PLAYS HIS NEW ROLE...EACH MINUTE OF THE DAY IS VITAL AS THEY FLY BY...
MR. PURDY NEVER LEAVES HIS DESK AT LUNCH TIME NOW!
AH, YOU HAVEN'T AGED A DAY, MR. PURDY! YOUR LARGE DEPOSITS ARE PAYING OFF NICELY!
YES, YES, I DON'T WASTE A MOMENT!
YOU KEPT ME WAITING HALF A MINUTE FOR THAT REPORT! YOU'RE COSTING ME TIME!
AND SO THE YEARS PASS! EARLY TO BED, EARLY TO RISE... SECONDS, MINUTES, HOURS ARE ALL CAREFULLY HOARDED BY PHINEAS PURDY, UNTIL...
IT'S AMAZING! I CAME HERE TWELVE YEARS AGO AS A YOUNG OFFICE BOY AND PURDY HASN'T AGED A DAY SINCE THEN!
HE'S ALWAYS RUSHING...AND YET HE DOESN'T GROW A DAY OLDER! HE'S STILL AS YOUNG AS THE DAY I TURNED MY JOB OVER TO HIM!
THUS, PHINEAS GOES ON AND ON, SAVING HIS PRECIOUS TIME...
TEN MINUTES SAVED TAKING THE EARLIER BUS...A FULL HOUR BY CUTTING OUT SOCIAL CONVERSATIONS AT THE OFFICE! YES, I SHALL HAVE A FULL DEPOSIT THIS WEEK ALSO!
THEN, TWENTY YEARS LATER .
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE TIME DEPOSITORS BALL TONIGHT
THE COMMITTEE
THEY MUST BE MAD, WASTING HOURS OF OUR PRECIOUS SAVINGS AT A PARTY!
BUT I MUST GO! I MUST SQUANDER THE TIME WITH THE REST OF THEM! I WOULDN'T DARE DO ANYTHING TO OFFEND!
AND THAT EVENING, AS THE DEPOSITORS GATHER IN A REAR ROOM OF THE BANK...
THIS IS YOUR FIRST BALL WITH US, MR. PURDY! WE WASTE THE TIME ONLY ONCE EVERY TWENTY YEARS!
YES, INDEED! WE MUST RELAX ONCE IN A WHILE!
I SUPPOSE SO! I HOPE IT DOESN'T LAST TOO LONG, THOUGH!

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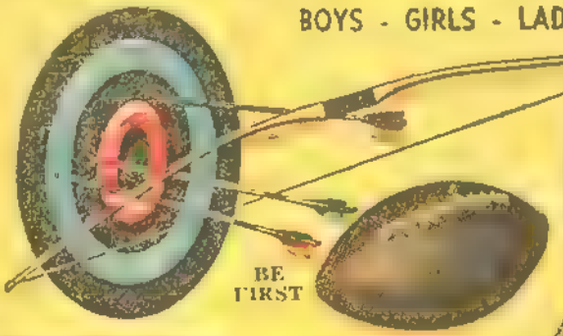

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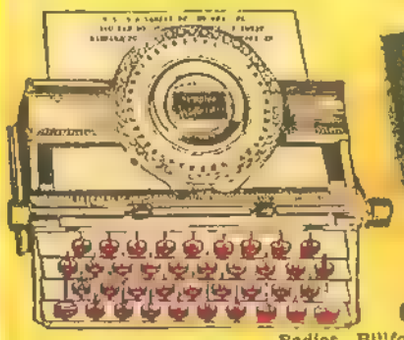

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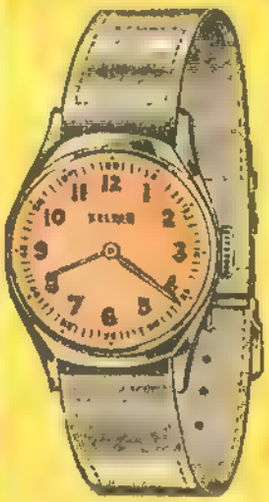

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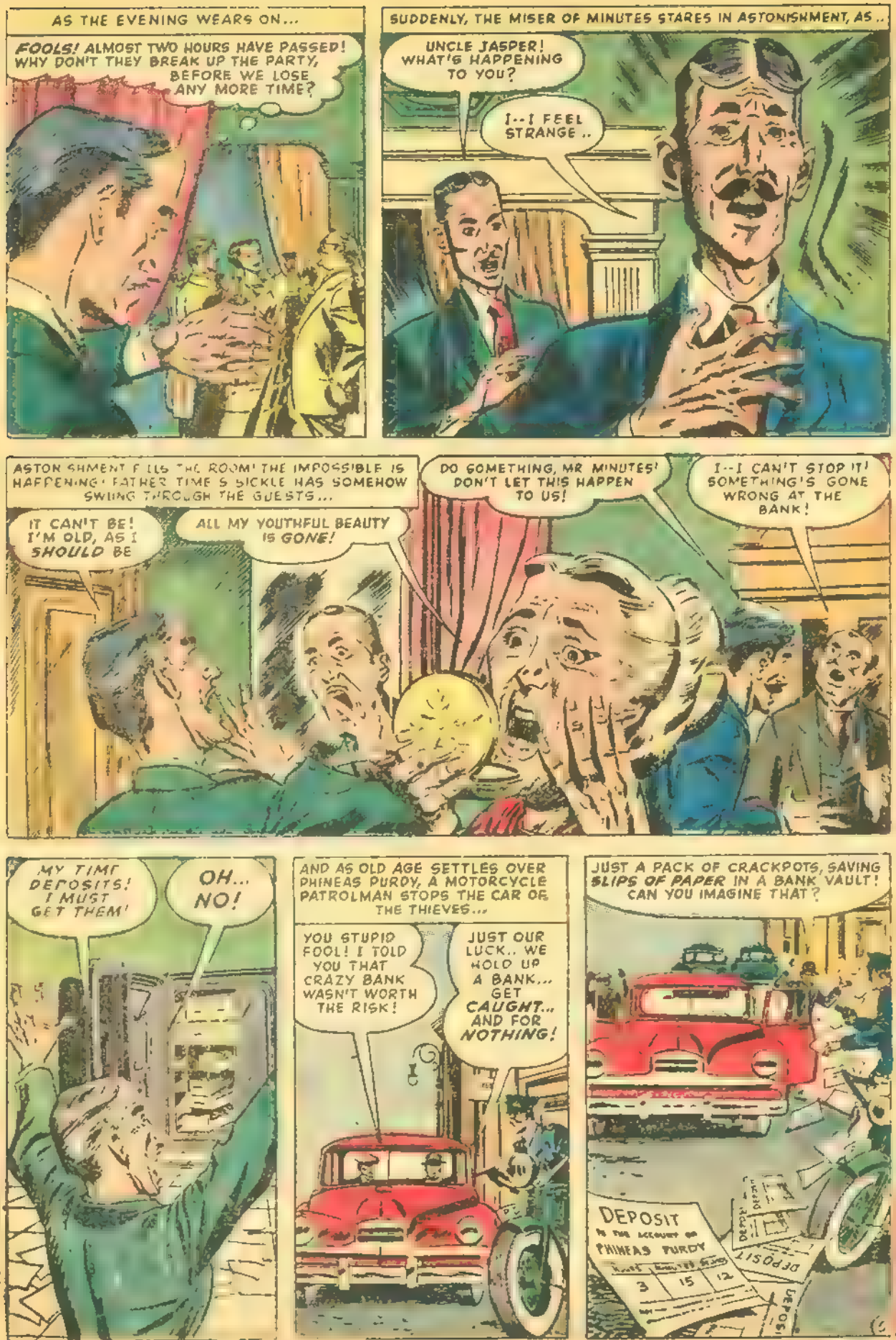
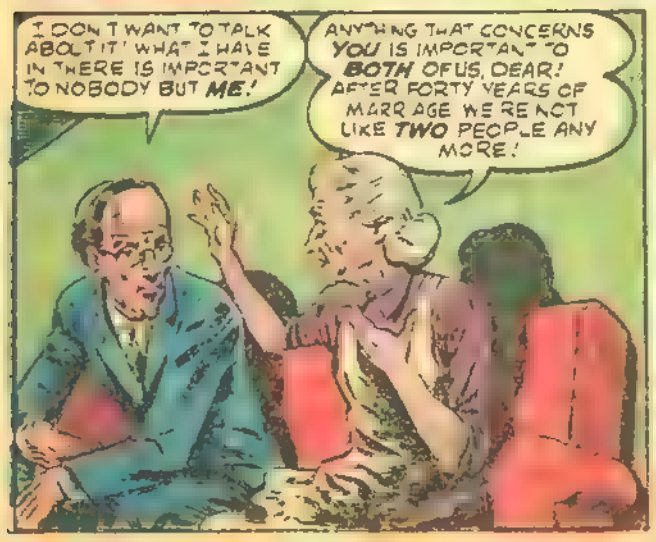
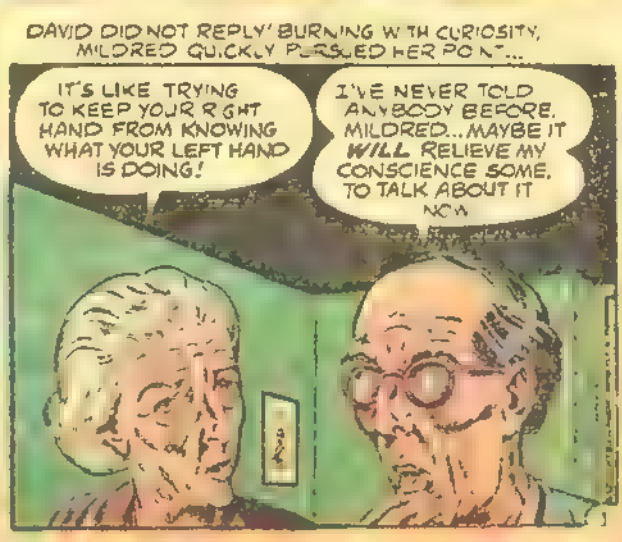


ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN UNUSUAL STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

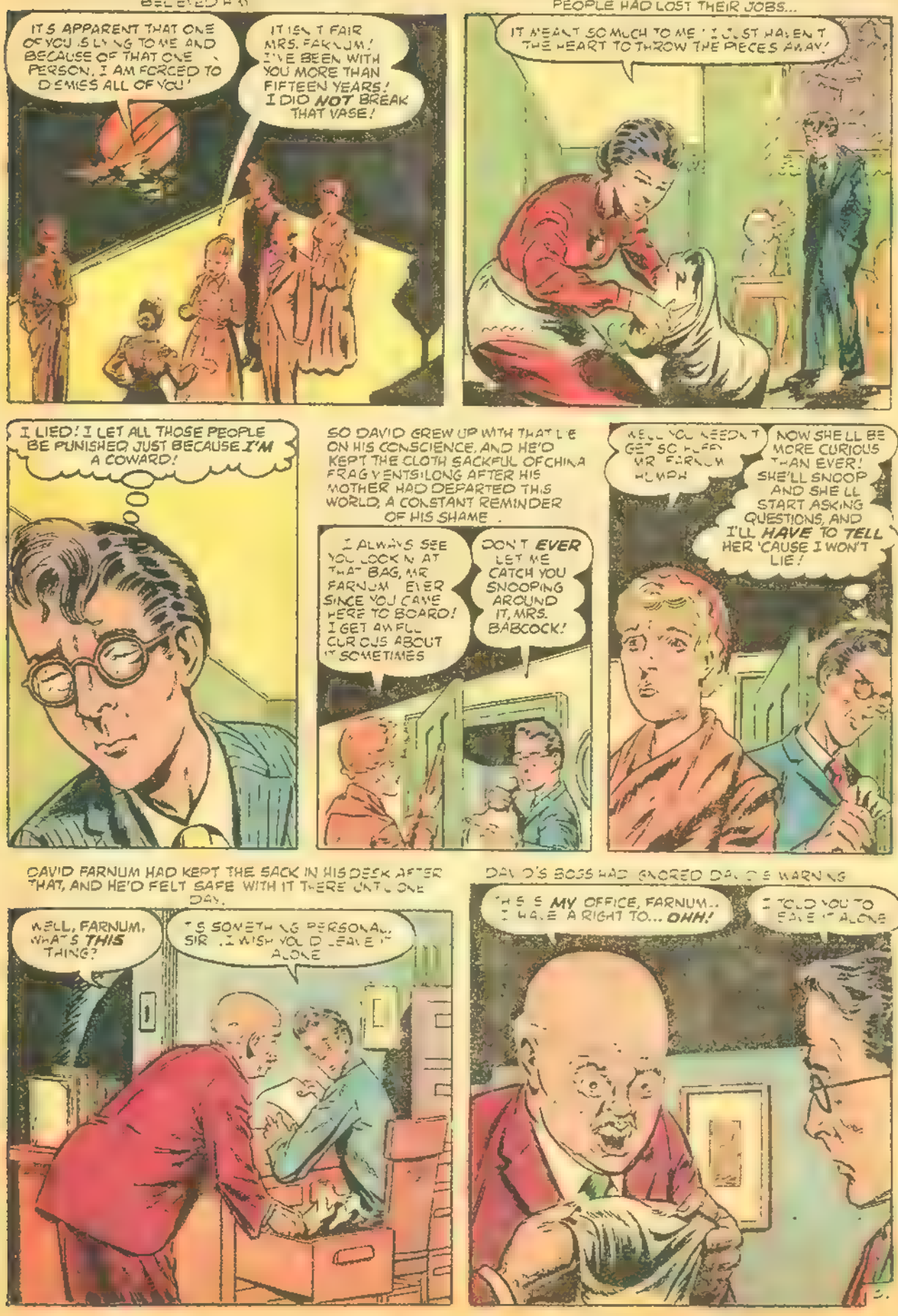
ALL THAT STOOD BETWEEN THEM AND COMPLETE HAPPINESS WAS A HALF-CENTURY OLD SECRET, THAT LAY HIDDEN BEHIND...

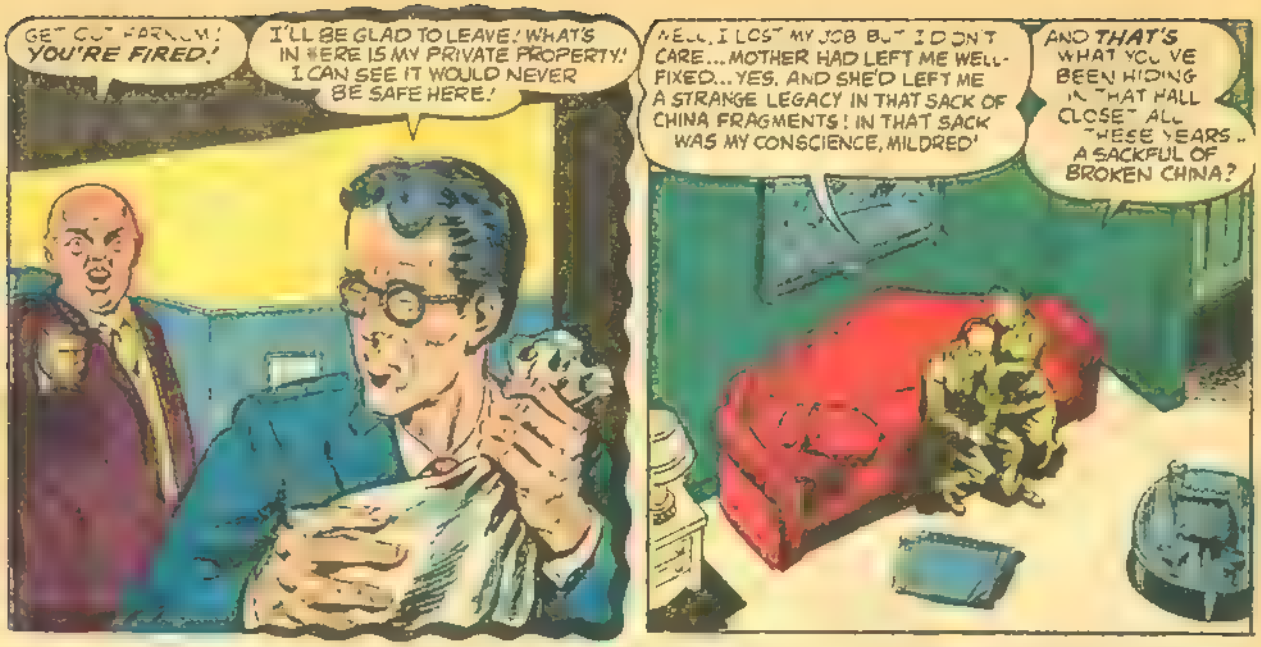
THE LOCKED DOOR

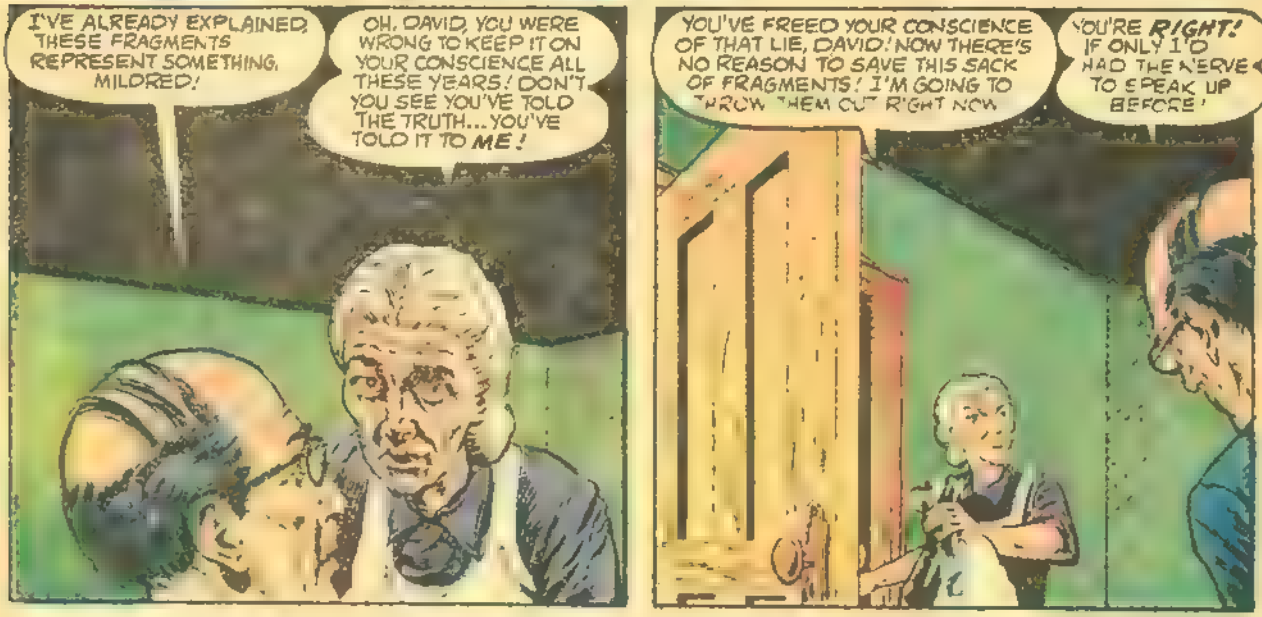




FIFTY YEARS AGO...I WAS FOURTEEN THEN...MOTHER WAS A WIDOW! WE HAD A BIG HOME AND SERVANTS... AND A MING VASE, MILDRED!
DAVID FARNUM SPOKE OF IT BUT NOT SO LONG AGO HE HAD JUST COME FROM SCHOOL AND WAS ABSORBED IN THE LATEST ADVENTURE NOVEL
HE HAD JUST BRUSHED AGAINST THE MING VASE, THAT PRICELESS PIECE OF POTTERY
OHHH!
MA'S VASE...SHE'LL BE MAD! I CAN'T LET HER KNOW I BROKE IT! I'LL CLIMB OUT THE WINDOW AND HIDE...
IT WAS QUITE SOME TIME BEFORE DAVID HAD RETURNED TO THE HOUSE! HE'D TRIED TO APPEAR VERY CASUAL..
SOMEONE BROKE IT WHILE I WAS OUT! I'M NOT JUST THINKING OF THE MONETARY VALUE OF MY MING VASE...IT WAS A WEDDING PRESENT TO ME FROM MR FARNUM!
I CERTAINLY DIDN'T BREAK IT!
OH, THERE YOU ARE, DAVID! DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
YOUR VASE BROKEN? GOSH MA, I- I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT!
MY SON, IF YOU ARE LYING YOUR CONSCIENCE WILL BOTHER YOU UNTIL YOU TELL THE TRUTH. BUT TELL THE TRUTH, AND EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!
I DIDN'T BREAK YOUR VASE, MA

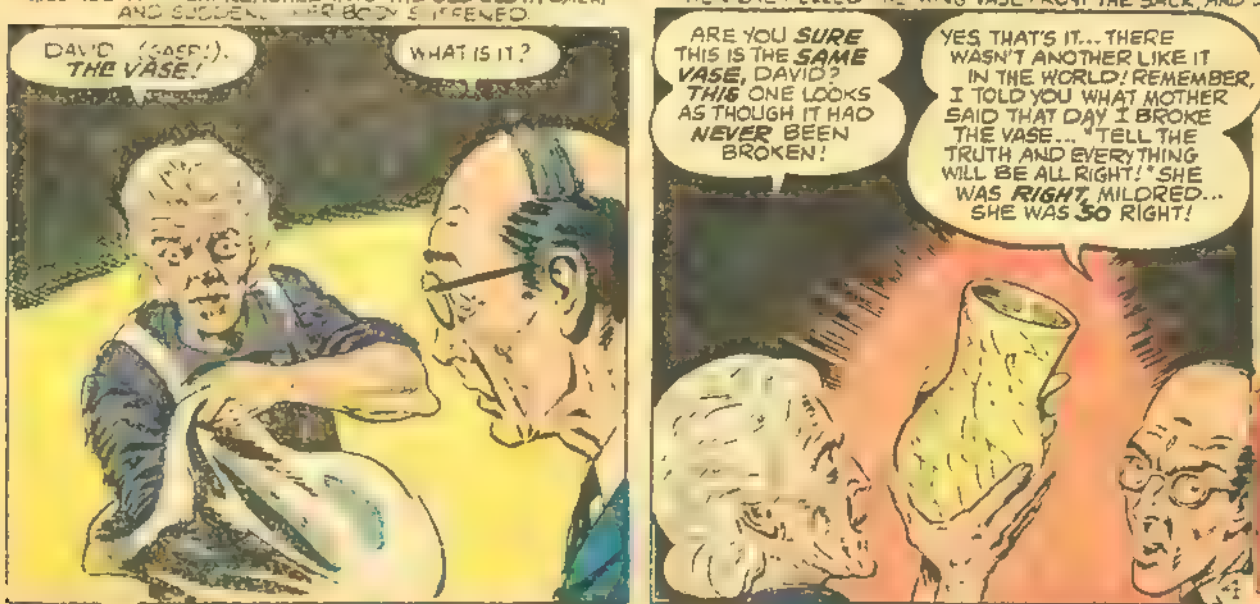

AND DAVID REMEMBERED THAT HE HAD LOOKED HIS MOTHER IN THE EYE AND HE HAD LIED BUT SHE DID BELIEVE HIM
IT'S APPARENT THAT ONE OF YOU IS LYING TO ME AND BECAUSE OF THAT ONE PERSON, I AM FORCED TO DEMIES ALL OF YOU!
IT ISN'T FAIR MRS. FARNUM! I'VE BEEN WITH YOU MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS! I DID NOT BREAK THAT VASE!
SO BECAUSE DAVID FARNUM HAD BEEN AFRAID TO TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THIS ACCIDENT, FOUR INNOCENT PEOPLE HAD LOST THEIR JOBS...
IT MEANT SO MUCH TO ME! I JUST HAVEN'T THE HEART TO THROW THE PIECES AWAY!
I LIED! I LET ALL THOSE PEOPLE BE PUNISHED JUST BECAUSE I'M A COWARD!
SO DAVID GREW UP WITH THAT LIE ON HIS CONSCIENCE, AND HE'D KEPT THE CLOTH SACKFUL OF CHINA FRAGMENTS LONG AFTER HIS MOTHER HAD DEPARTED THIS WORLD, A CONSTANT REMINDER OF HIS SHAME.
I ALWAYS SEE YOU LOOKIN AT THAT BAG, MR FARNUM EVER SINCE YOU CAME HERE TO BOARD! I GET AWFUL CURIOUS ABOUT IT SOMETIMES
DON'T EVER LET ME CATCH YOU SNOOPING AROUND IT, MRS. BABCOCK!
WELL YOU NEEDN'T GET SO HUFFY MR FARNUM HUMPH
NOW SHE'LL BE MORE CURIOUS THAN EVER! SHE'LL SNOOP AND SHE'LL START ASKING QUESTIONS, AND I'LL HAVE TO TELL HER 'CAUSE I WON'T LIE!
DAVID FARNUM HAD KEPT THE SACK IN HIS DESK AFTER THAT, AND HE'D FELT SAFE WITH IT THERE UNTIL ONE DAY.
WELL, FARNUM, WHAT'S THIS THING?
IT'S SOMETHING PERSONAL, SIR. I WISH YOU'D LEAVE IT ALONE
DAVID'S BOSS HAD IGNORED DAVID'S WARNING
THIS IS MY OFFICE, FARNUM.. I HAVE A RIGHT TO... OHH!
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE IT ALONE





MILDRED FARNUM REACHED INTO THE OLD CLOTH SACK, AND SUDDENLY HER BODY STIFFENED.

THEN SHE PULLED THE MING VASE FROM THE SACK, AND -



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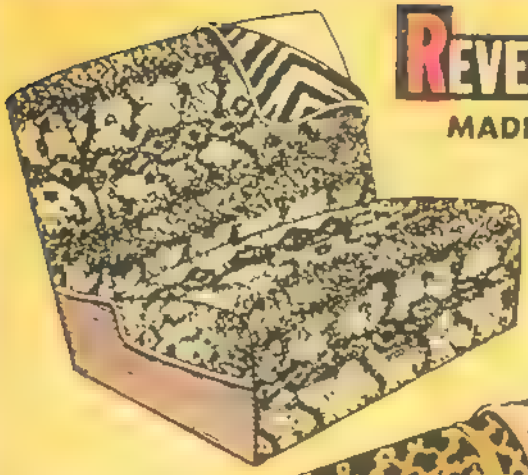

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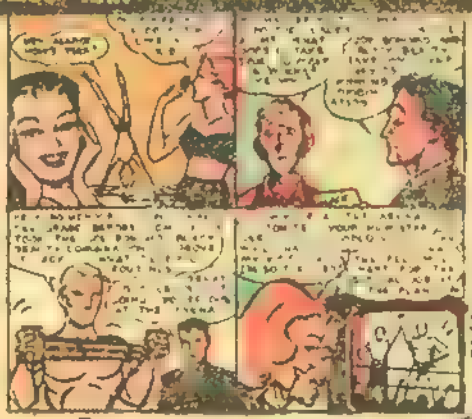

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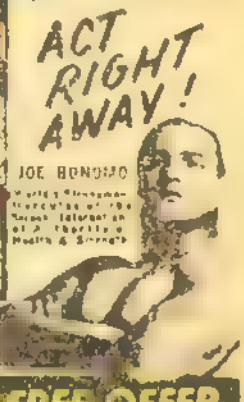

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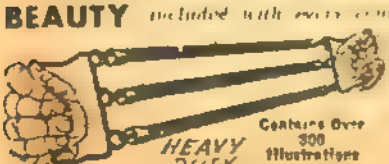

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Although Tony had considered the deal strictly in a business sense, the stakes of private fortune were increased by the rivalry between himself and Kramer. He was determined to teach Kramer that he could not meddle into this affair and get away with it.

There was one small airstrip and only one plane available for the trip to Faleesh from the jungle territory where Tony was now based. Cleverly, he had made the right friends and chartered the plane for himself . . . for tonight. Nothing must stop him now . . . not even the fever.

The boy returned with his pills and water. Tony dismissed him and put the room in darkness. He stretched out on his bed and pulled the mosquito netting over him. He dozed for a while. When he opened his eyes, a shadowy head appeared before him.

"What do you want?" he asked thickly.

"Do you know what you want, Tony?" echoed the voice.

"Who are you? What right do you have to intrude without . . ."

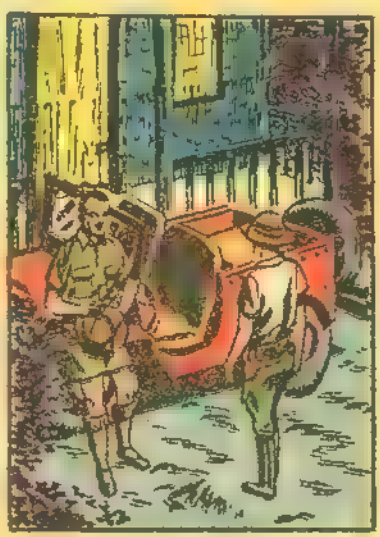
"I am no intruder," the voice announced seriously.

Tony stared as if transfixed at the shadowy head across the room.

"Do you really hope that good will come from your visit to Faleesh? You hope to run the mines. Will you do this honestly and in good faith, or are you hoping to pad your pockets with ill-gotten wealth?"

Tony shifted on the bed. The Faleesh deal was a temptation to take out just a little bit more than could be considered honest. Had he thought of it that way, he wondered? Was he ashamed now to admit this to himself?

"For what other reason are you rushing to get to Faleesh?" The shadow deepened as Tony leaned forward hoping to make out the features. "If you are an ethical man and honest in all ways, you will not worry if Kramer has an audience with Faleesh first. Kramer will show his greed, and Faleesh is not a fool . . . he will see this. The man who comes in to run the mines for him must be a good master, one who will treat the people with understanding and intelligence. Faleesh is a careful man. He admires this quality



in others. Would he expect a careful man to run half way around the world to see him before that man has been invited there? It is only an ambitious seeker who will do this. Faleesh may not trust ambition over competence."

"Stop it! Stop!" Tony demanded. "Who are you? Leave me alone! Leave me alone!"

The lights flashed on suddenly and the boy servant appeared.

"You called me, Sahib? You are not feeling well?"

Tony sank back on the bed, his head pounding. He looked into the curious but kind eyes of the young boy.

"Get a message to the airstrip," he said softly. "I will not be going to Faleesh. Cancel the plane."

"Yes, Sahib. Would you like me to stay for a while . . . until you are feeling better? The fever is plaguing you, perhaps. I have known this to be so."

Tony shivered slightly.

"Nonsense!" he replied. "That is superstition."

But he lay awake again in the darkness, wondering in spite of himself until he fell into a deep sleep.

His fever broke in the night and he awakened to a sunfilled morning with a clear head, and the fever gone.

When he stepped outside, he heard excited voices. He called for the servant to see what it was all about.

"It is the plane you chartered, Sahib. It took off this morning with another man bound for Faleesh."

"That would be Kramer," said Tony. "What about him?"

"The plane crashed . . . a few minutes in the air and then . . . it was gone. The fever spirits saved you, Sahib."

"Come with me," said Tony. "I want to show you something."

He led the boy into his room.

"I should apologize," he said, "for insulting your belief. It is just that my people call the same thing by a different name."

Tony looked knowingly toward his bed. A mirror on the opposite wall hung there innocently. This was the "shadowy head" that appeared to him the night before in his fever. The voice that had come to him was one he had almost forgotten . . . one that would be with him always, he now hoped.

"You see," explained Tony, "the spirits are as real to me as they are to you, but the name *I* know them by is My Conscience!"

THE END G-728

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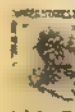

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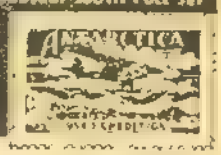

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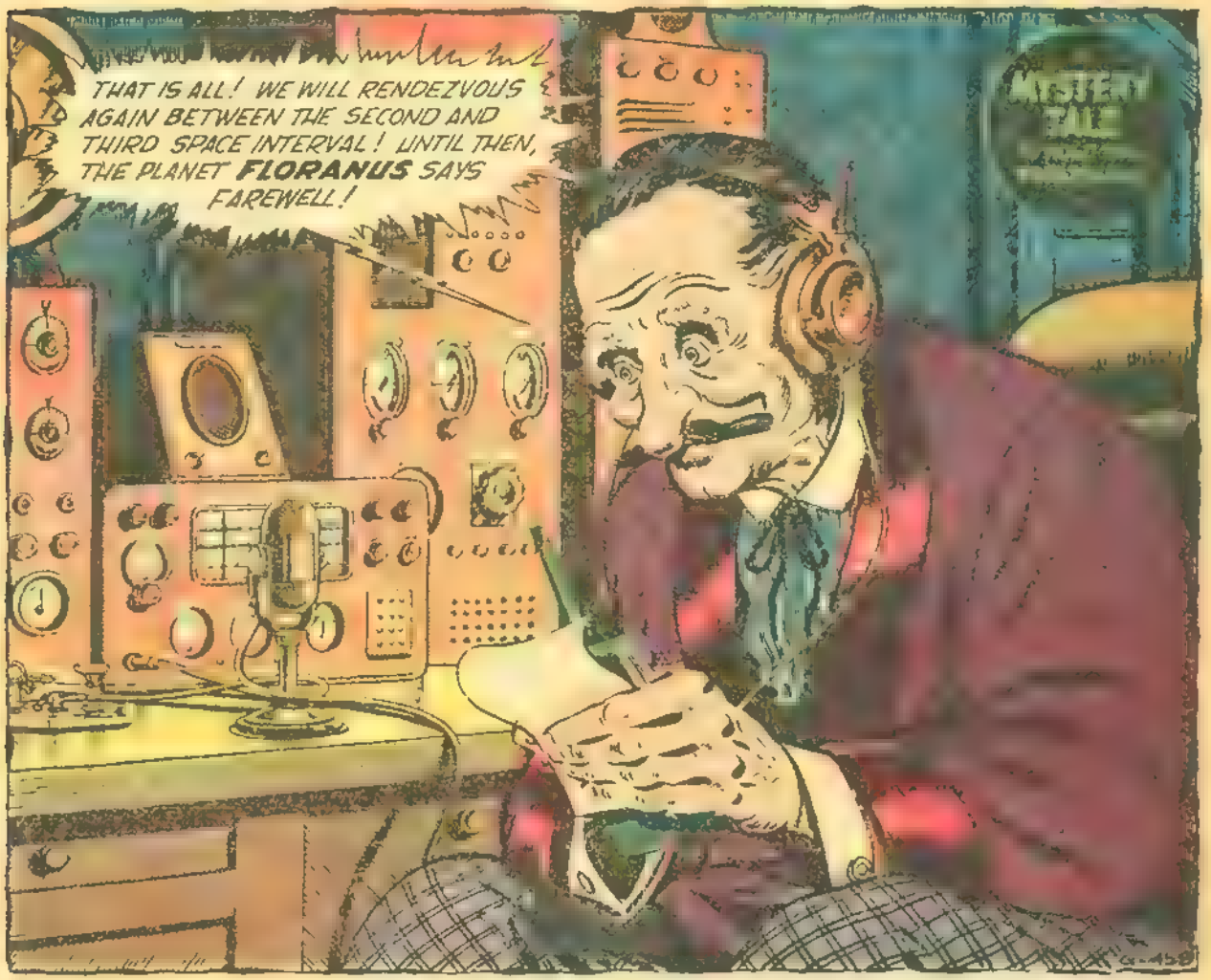
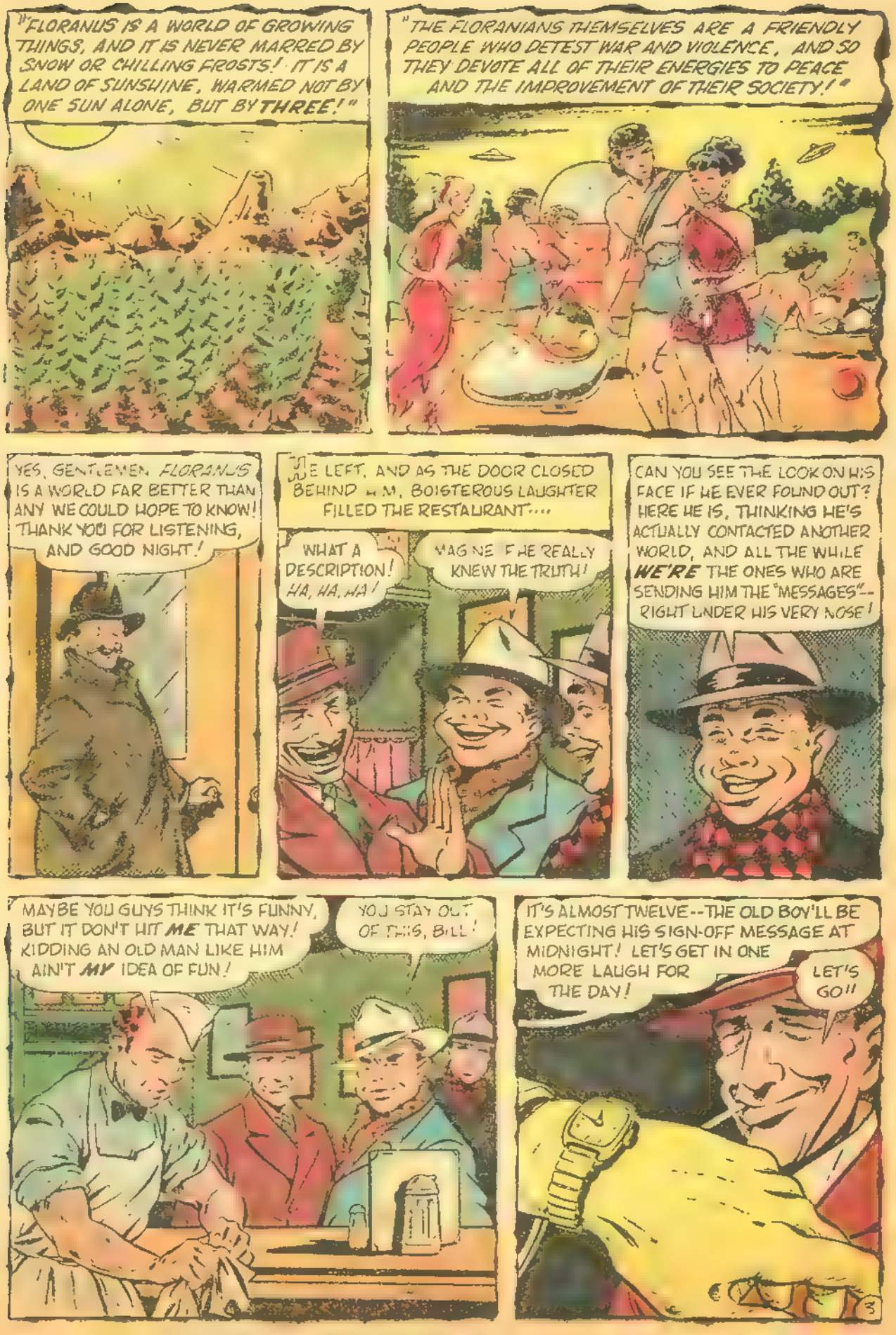
THEY HAD CALLED HIM A FOOL, BUT IT MEANT LITTLE TO OLD MAN CARLSON! HE HAD A DUTY AND A MISSION AND THE ONLY AUTHORITY HE RECOGNIZED WAS THE CALM, UNHURRIED WORDS OF....

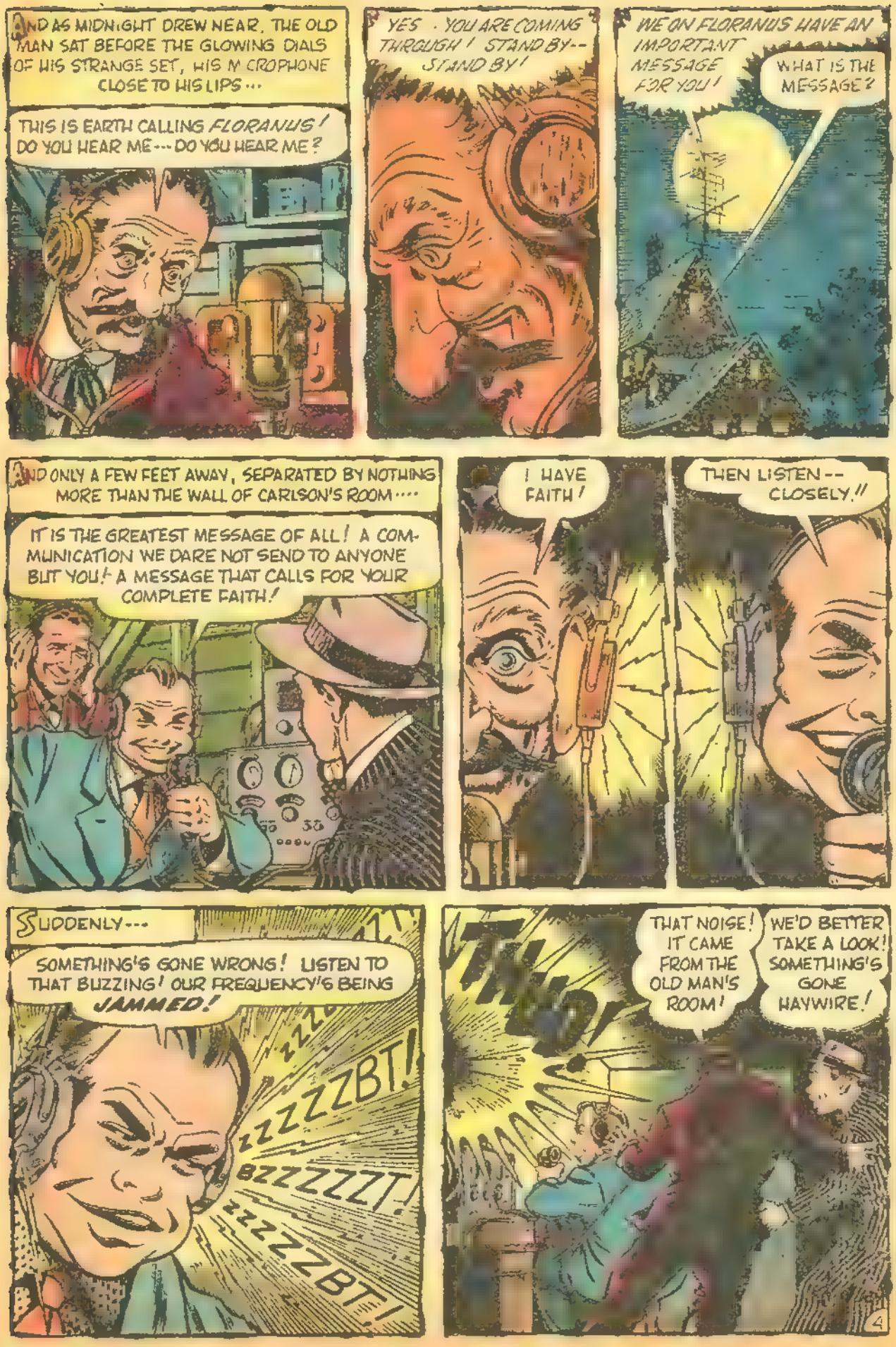
THE VOICES!

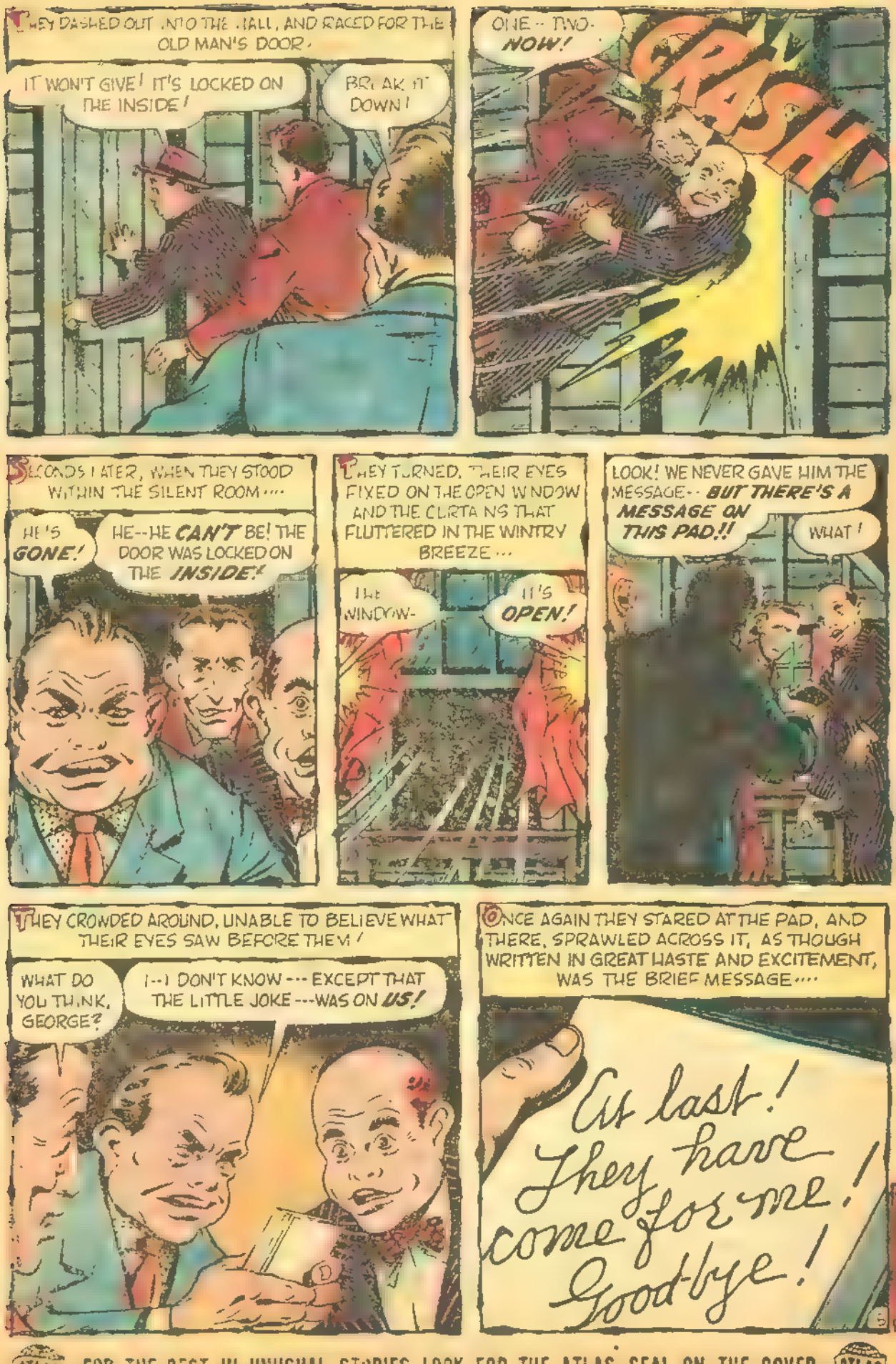


THERE WAS A SHARP CLICK-- AND THEN SILENCE! SLOWLY, THE OLD MAN LEANED BACK IN HIS CHAIR, HIS FACE HEAVY WITH THOUGHT....

OUTSIDE, A LIGHT SNOW WHIRLED BRISKLY BEFORE THE JANUARY WIND, BUT THE OLD MAN DIDN'T FEEL THE COLD! HE WAS FAR TOO LOST IN THOUGHT TO BE CONSCIOUS OF ANYTHING!
IT WENT SO WELL TONIGHT! NOT A WORD WAS LOST! NOT A SYLLABLE!
MOMENTS LATER, THE OLD MAN ENTERED A RESTAURANT....
HERE HE COMES NOW, GEORGE!
GOOD! LET'S GIVE HIM A FEW MINUTES BEFORE WE BEGIN!
THEY BIDED THEIR TIME, PASSING AMUSED WINKS AMONG THEMSELVES... AND THEN THE ONE CALLED GEORGE STEPPED FORWARD...
WELL, POP, HOW GOES IT? YOU STILL KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH FLORANUS?
YES -- STILL IN TOUCH!
HOW COME THESE SPACE PALS OF YOURS SPEAK ENGLISH, POP?
THEY HAPPEN TO SPEAK FLORANIAN, BUT BY MEANS OF THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE, FAR BEYOND YOUR LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING, WE DO MANAGE TO COMMUNICATE!
WHAT KIND OF A PLACE IS THIS FLORANUS?
A BEAUTIFUL PLACE! A WORLD OF PEACE, LOVE, AND SERENITY!
MY CONTACT HAS DESCRIBED IT TO ME IN GREAT DETAIL, AND I VENTURE TO SAY THAT FLORANUS' OUTRIVALS ANYTHING IN ITS GALAXY!
"THEY ARE A MODEL OF SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT, AND THEY HAVE MUCH TO BE PROUD OF IN THEIR SIMPLE, YET EFFICIENT, ARCHITECTURE, AND IN THEIR SWIFT, SAUCER-SHAPED VEHICLES...."


"FLORANUS IS A WORLD OF GROWING THINGS, AND IT IS NEVER MARRED BY SNOW OR CHILLING FROSTS! IT IS A LAND OF SUNSHINE, WARMED NOT BY ONE SUN ALONE, BUT BY THREE!"
"THE FLORANIANS THEMSELVES ARE A FRIENDLY PEOPLE WHO DETEST WAR AND VIOLENCE, AND SO THEY DEVOTE ALL OF THEIR ENERGIES TO PEACE AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR SOCIETY!"
YES, GENTLEMEN, FLORANUS IS A WORLD FAR BETTER THAN ANY WE COULD HOPE TO KNOW! THANK YOU FOR LISTENING, AND GOOD NIGHT!
HE LEFT, AND AS THE DOOR CLOSED BEHIND HIM, BOISTEROUS LAUGHTER FILLED THE RESTAURANT....
WHAT A DESCRIPTION! HA, HA, HA!
IMAGINE IF HE REALLY KNEW THE TRUTH!
CAN YOU SEE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE IF HE EVER FOUND OUT? HERE HE IS, THINKING HE'S ACTUALLY CONTACTED ANOTHER WORLD, AND ALL THE WHILE WE'RE THE ONES WHO ARE SENDING HIM THE "MESSAGES"--RIGHT UNDER HIS VERY NOSE!
MAYBE YOU GUYS THINK IT'S FUNNY, BUT IT DON'T HIT ME THAT WAY! KIDDING AN OLD MAN LIKE HIM AIN'T MY IDEA OF FUN!
YOU STAY OUT OF THIS, BILL!
IT'S ALMOST TWELVE--THE OLD BOY'LL BE EXPECTING HIS SIGN-OFF MESSAGE AT MIDNIGHT! LET'S GET IN ONE MORE LAUGH FOR THE DAY!
LET'S GO!!
3


AND AS MIDNIGHT DREW NEAR, THE OLD MAN SAT BEFORE THE GLOWING DIALS OF HIS STRANGE SET, HIS MICROPHONE CLOSE TO HIS LIPS ···
THIS IS EARTH CALLING FLORANUS! DO YOU HEAR ME··· DO YOU HEAR ME?
YES · YOU ARE COMING THROUGH! STAND BY-- STAND BY!
WE ON FLORANUS HAVE AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR YOU!
WHAT IS THE MESSAGE?
AND ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY, SEPARATED BY NOTHING MORE THAN THE WALL OF CARLSON'S ROOM····
IT IS THE GREATEST MESSAGE OF ALL! A COMMUNICATION WE DARE NOT SEND TO ANYONE BUT YOU!- A MESSAGE THAT CALLS FOR YOUR COMPLETE FAITH!
I HAVE FAITH!
THEN LISTEN-- CLOSELY.//
SUDDENLY···
SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG! LISTEN TO THAT BUZZING! OUR FREQUENCY'S BEING JAMMED!
ZZZ
ZZZZZBT!
BZZZZZT!
ZZZZZBT!
THAT NOISE! IT CAME FROM THE OLD MAN'S ROOM!
WE'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK! SOMETHING'S GONE HAYWIRE!
4



ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN UNUSUAL STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

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COLOR GUIDE
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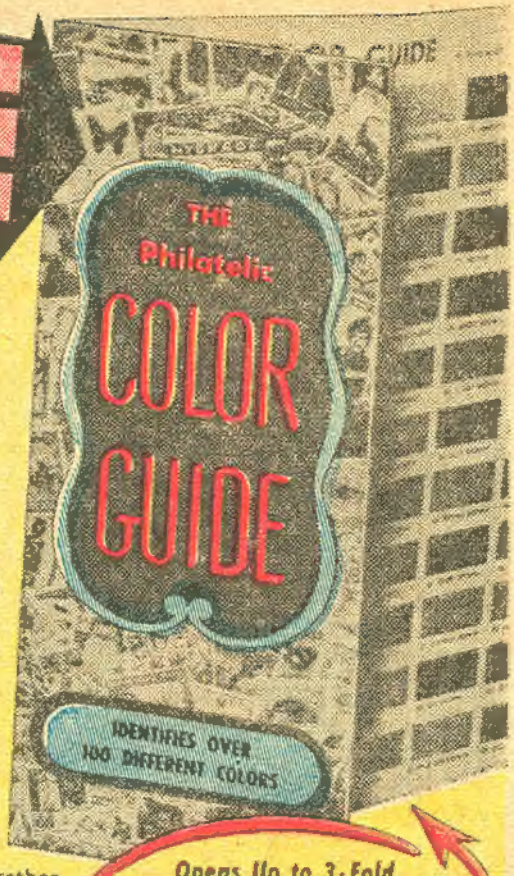
Valuable New Philatelic Color Guide Instantly Spots Color Differences That Make Stamps Worth BIG Money — offered FREE to Get Names for our mailing list



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Over 100 Full Color Samples
Complete Color Index

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